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哥帝爾斯的繩結

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原作／坂登　陸
作畫／野瀨尚紀

VOLUME. 2

COMICS WORLD

哥帝爾斯的繩結 2

原作／坂登　陸
作畫／野瀨尚紀

天下

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$28

THE GORDIAN KNOT

透過改變想法，去解決難題，
就是所謂「切斷哥帝爾斯的繩結」!!

跟以收藏品為賭注的
收藏家較量的萬丈祐樹!!
這次有能自由地擲出錢幣正反面的敵人，
和俄羅斯輪盤高手登場！
萬丈可以看穿對手的詭計，越過難關嗎？

要勝還是要敗・
騙人還是被騙!!

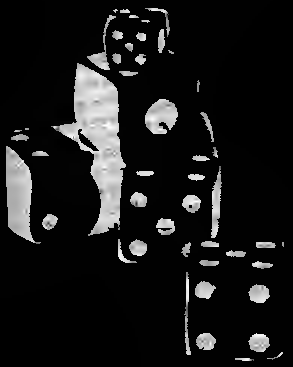
49.5元

原作 / 坂登陸

漫畫 / 野瀨尚紀

VOLUME. 2

司蒂爾斯的繩結



萬丈祐樹

爲於難題網站達到99%正確率而自豪。被古物商Stanley商會羅致旗下，跟各種不同的收藏家以賭博決勝負。喜歡巨乳。

登場人物介紹

森　夏樹

Stanley 商會的兼職員工。和萬丈拍檔，跟那些只肯透過賭博才肯願意出讓收藏品的收藏家較量。

多井聞課長

任職於 Stanley 商會，夏樹的上司，是一名性騷擾狂。

日常碎片

哥帝爾斯的繩結

2

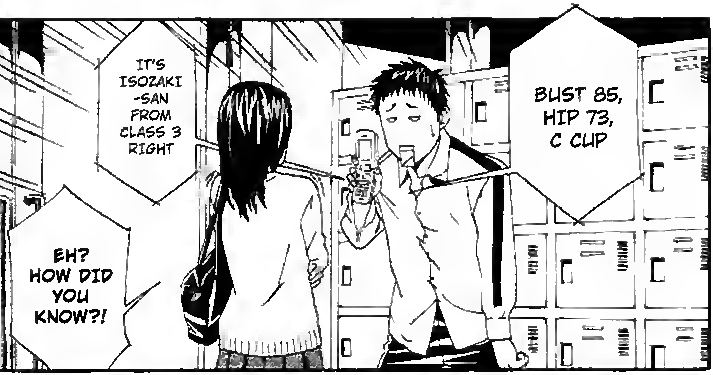
CONTENTS

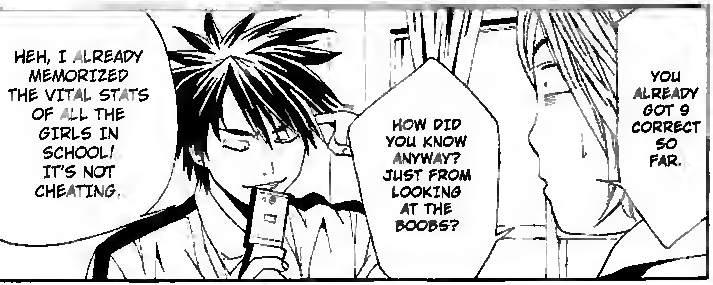
MISSION 4：錢幣的秘密……7
MISSION 5：俄羅斯刀子輪盤……57
MISSION 6：史加爾的挑戰書（前篇）……109
MISSION 7：史加爾的挑戰書（後篇）……155

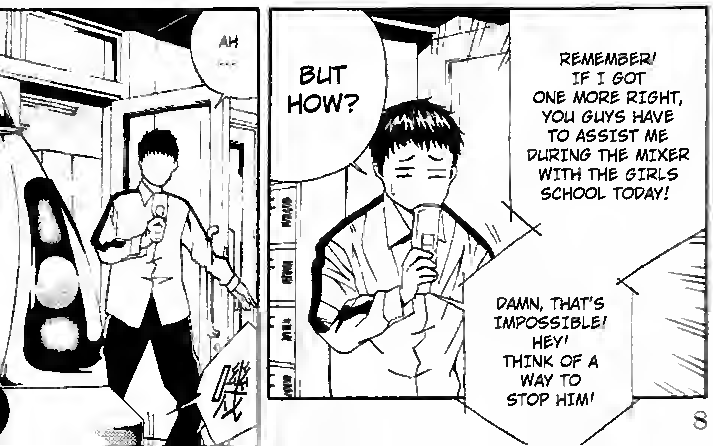
●本故事純屬虛構。

MISSION 4:

SECRET OF THE COIN

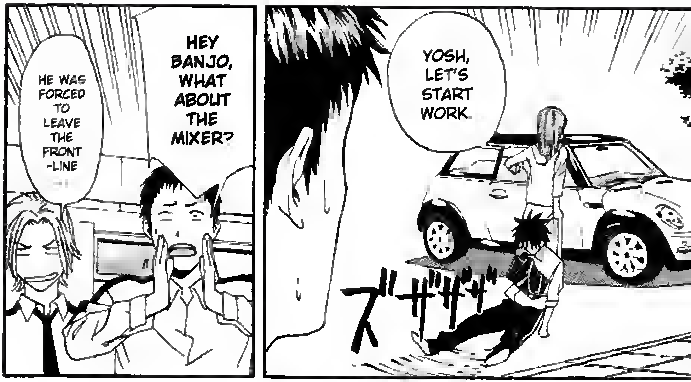

BUST 85, HIP 73, C CUP
IT'S ISOZAKI -SAN FROM CLASS 3 RIGHT
EH? HOW DID YOU KNOW?!

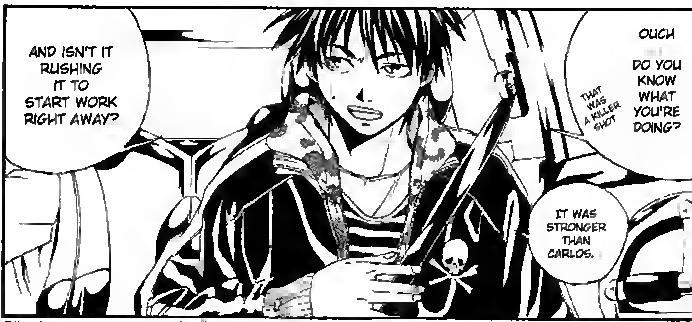

YOU ALREADY GOT 9 CORRECT SO FAR.
HOW DID YOU KNOW ANYWAY? JUST FROM LOOKING AT THE BOOBS?
HEH, I ALREADY MEMORIZED THE VITAL STATS OF ALL THE GIRLS IN SCHOOL! IT'S NOT CHEATING.


REMEMBER! IF I GOT ONE MORE RIGHT, YOU GUYS HAVE TO ASSIST ME DURING THE MIXER WITH THE GIRLS SCHOOL TODAY!
BUT HOW?
AH...
DAMN, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! HEY! THINK OF A WAY TO STOP HIM!

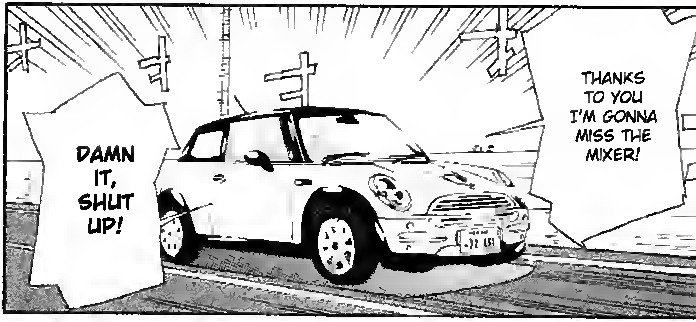
HEY, DONE YET? NO MATTER WHO YOU CHOOSE IT'S USELESS
AH, WHO IS IT THIS TIME?
THESE SMALL BOOBS SEEM FAMILIAR.
BUT SERIOUSLY, THERE AREN'T MANY GIRLS WITH SUCH SMALL BOOBS
SHE'S NOT IN UNIFORM? THAT BASTARD, DIDN'T WE AGREE ONLY GIRLS IN THIS SCHOOL ARE ALLOWED?
WAIT A MINUTE.

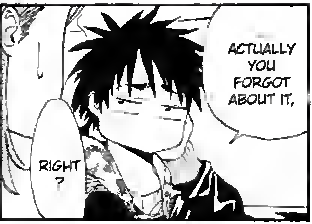
AH! IT'S NATSUKI -SAN!
HEY DUMMY! WHERE RE YOU KICK -ING?!
I WAS RIGHT! IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET IT WRONG.
UW -AH!

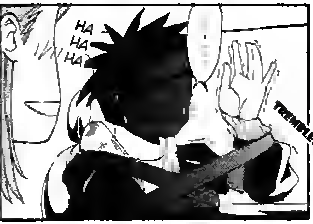


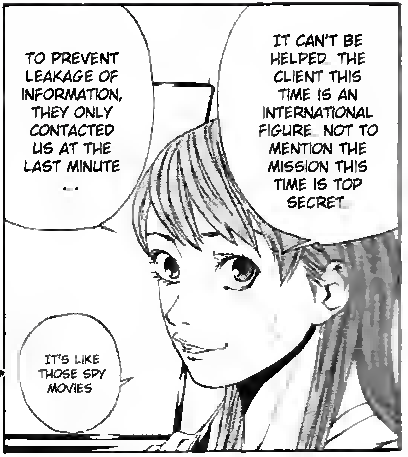

AND ISN'T IT RUSHING IT TO START WORK RIGHT AWAY?
OUCH
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING?
THAT WAS A KILLER SHOT
IT WAS STRONGER THAN CARLOS.

T/N Probably Roberto Carlos a Brazil football player



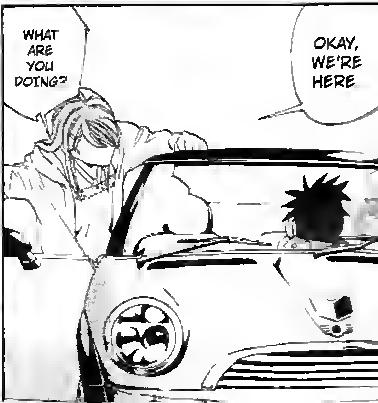

ACTUALLY YOU FORGOT ABOUT IT,
RIGHT ?


HA HA HA
TREMBLE!


IT CAN'T BE HELPED. THE CLIENT THIS TIME IS AN INTERNATIONAL FIGURE. NOT TO MENTION THE MISSION THIS TIME IS TOP SECRET.
TO PREVENT LEAKAGE OF INFORMATION, THEY ONLY CONTACTED US AT THE LAST MINUTE ...
IT'S LIKE THOSE SPY MOVIES

BRAKE!!

EX -HALE!!

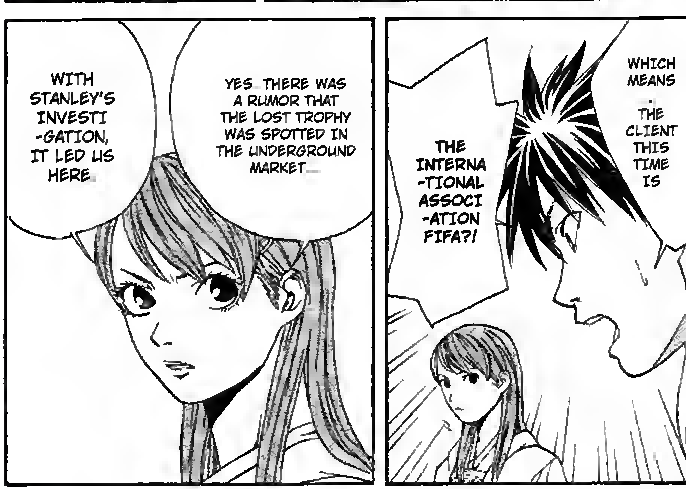

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
OKAY, WE'RE HERE.

A WARE -HOUSE ?
BEEP
LOOKS ABAN -DONED.
IT'S PRETTY DESO -LATE
HEY, BE MORE CAREFUL THERE'S AN ANTI -STEALTH DETECTOR.
BEEP
BEEP —— BEEP ——
WAH ...
WHAT HAPP -ENED?

THERE'S ACTUALLY A FOOT-BALL EQUIP-MENT STORE
IN THIS KIND OF PLACE?
LAZIO

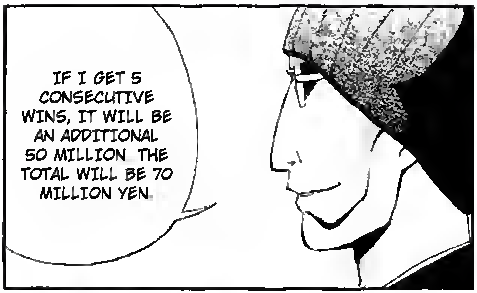
R.BAGGIO
THERE'S MANY KINDS
AND ALL OF THESE ARE COLLEC -TIBLES
HEH HEH, STANLEY'S EMPLOYEES ..
HOW DO YOU FIND MY COLLEC -TION?
MERCHANT: TOGASHI MASAKAZU
OF COURSE IT'S ALL GENUINE.

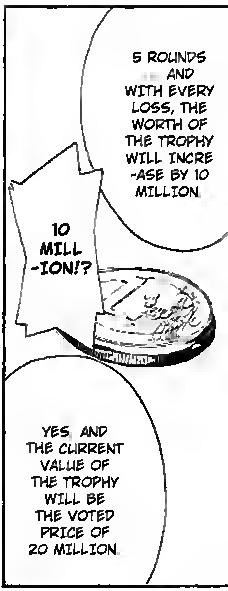
WHO'S A KID?
HEY
THIS KID
IS STANLEY'S "ASSASSIN"?
THE TREASURE THIS TIME ISN'T THESE THINGS?
HERE.
LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT THIS WHERE'S THE ITEM?
IT COULD BE SAID THAT IT IS THE NATIONAL TREASURE OF THE FOOTBALL WORLD...
EVEN THOUGH ALL OF THESE ARE VALUABLE AS WELL. THE ITEM THAT I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU IS ON A TOTALLY DIFFERENT LEVEL

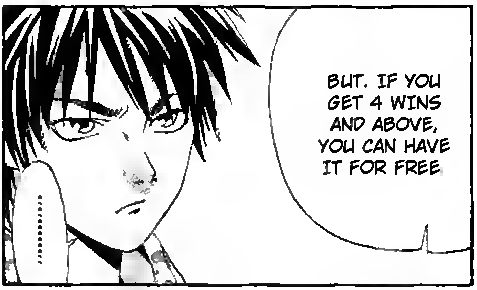

WITH STANLEY'S INVESTI -GATION, IT LED US HERE.
YES. THERE WAS A RUMOR THAT THE LOST TROPHY WAS SPOTTED IN THE UNDERGROUND MARKET...
THE INTERNA -TIONAL ASSOCI -ATION FIFA?!
WHICH MEANS... THE CLIENT THIS TIME IS

T/N 1930 IS THE YEAR WHERE THE FIRST WORLD CUP WAS HELD IN IN 1983 THE TROPHY WAS STOLEN AND NEVER RECOVERED

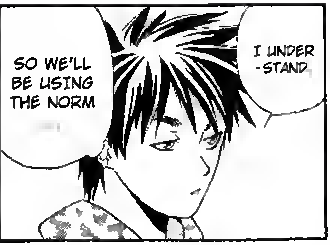
IF WE ARE WILL -ING TO TAKE YOU ON
WILL YOU REALLY GIVE IT TO US?
WELL ...
ACTU -ALLY I WASN'T REALLY WILL -ING AT FIRST
BUT COINCIDEN -TALLY THE WORLD CUP HELD ONCE IN 4 YEARS HAPPENS AGAIN THIS YEAR EVERYONE WILL FIGHT FOR THIS TROPHY.
THEREFORE I SHALL ALSO GIVE YOU GUYS A CHANCE TO OBTAIN IT. WHAT YOU WANT TO DO IS UP TO YOU.
NATSUKI-SAN, WHAT IS THE GAME THIS TIME?
THIS TIME WILL BE WITH A COIN TOSS, SIMILAR TO IN FOOTBALL GAMES.
THIS MEANS, WE HAVE TO CALL HEAD OR TALES.


IF I GET 5 CONSECUTIVE WINS, IT WILL BE AN ADDITIONAL 50 MILLION. THE TOTAL WILL BE 70 MILLION YEN.

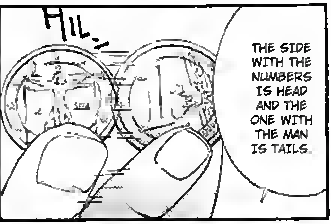

5 ROUNDS AND WITH EVERY LOSS, THE WORTH OF THE TROPHY WILL INCRE -ASE BY 10 MILLION.
10 MILL -ION!?
YES. AND THE CURRENT VALUE OF THE TROPHY WILL BE THE VOTED PRICE OF 20 MILLION.

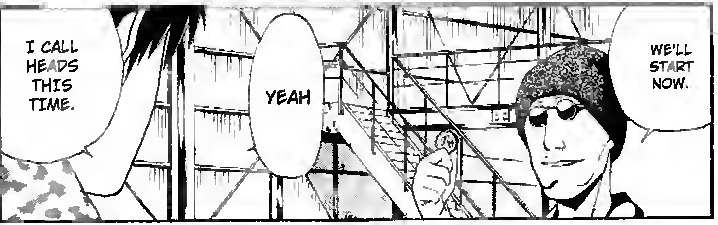

BUT. IF YOU GET 4 WINS AND ABOVE, YOU CAN HAVE IT FOR FREE
.....

AS FOR THE RULES ...


SO WE'LL BE USING THE NORM
I UNDER -STAND

I WILL TOSS THE COIN
AND YOU WILL CALL.


HIL..
THE SIDE WITH THE NUMBERS IS HEAD AND THE ONE WITH THE MAN IS TAILS.


I CALL HEADS THIS TIME.
YEAH
WE'LL START NOW.

HEADS HUH
THEN
LET'S START!

IF I WIN 3 TIMES, IT WILL BE HALF OF THE PRICE NOW, 10 MILLION. IF I ONLY WIN TWICE, IT WILL BE AN ADDITIONAL 10 MILLION AND WE HAVE TO PAY 30 MILLION.
THE CHANCE OF VICTORY IS 50%. 5 ROUNDS IN TOTAL. THEORETICALLY SPEAKING, IT'S A 2:3 RATIO.
SMIRK
WHICH MEANS, FOR THE GAME THIS TIME
I JUST HAVE TO WIN AT LEAST THREE TIMES.
IT'S TAILS!
AH ...

WE GUESSED WRONG! WHICH MEANS ... 30 MILLION!
NOW... ONTO THE NEXT ROUND.
.....
HEADS.
HE GUESSED HEAD CONTINUOUSLY
BUT THEN AGAIN HE CAN ONLY RELY ON HIS INSTINCTS
GOT IT.

EH ... TAILS!
AHAHA. IT'S TAILS TWICE IN A ROW. YOU'RE REALLY UNLUCKY.
THIS MEANS IT'S DOUBLE THE VOTED PRICE NOW, 40MILLION.
WE CAN'T GO BACK ANYMORE!
IF WE LOSE AGAIN, WE HAVE TO PAY AT LEAST 30MILLION NO MATTER WHAT!
ALRIGHT. THE NEXT ROUND NOW.

BANJO -KUN
THE NEXT WILL OBVIOUSLY BE HEADS
BECAUSE IT WAS TAILS TWICE CONSECU -TIVELY
YEAH
INDEED
NORMALLY, THE CHANCE OF GETTING 5 TAILS IS 1 IN 32. CHOOSING HEADS NOW WOULD BE THE BETTER CHOICE.
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING THAT'SNBOTHE -RING ME ABOUT THIS GAME...
HE'S NOT USING ANY DEVICE BUT HIS HANDS.
AND HE ONLY TOSSES THE COIN AFTER I HAVE DECIDED ON ONE SIDE. IT'S PRETTY WEIRD...
.....
ALR -IGHT. I'VE CHOSEN
SLAM!

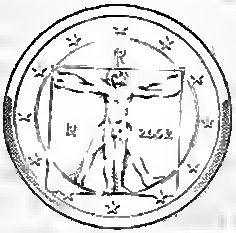
WHY ?!
TAILS.
CHANGED YOUR MIND?
INDEED, THERE'S NOT MUCH LUCK WITH HEADS
HE CHANGED THE COIN?!
EH?

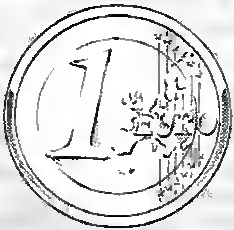
GASP
CHANGED YOUR MIND?
HE CHANGED THE COIN JUST NO ... FOR WHAT REASON?
HEADS!
IT'S 50 MILLION NOW!
EH?
IF THIS CONTINUES ...
TAILS.
IT EXCEEDS THE BUDGET!
BANJO KUN, DIDN'T I SAY SO?
EVEN IF WE WIN THE NEXT 2 ROUNDS WE STILL HAVE TO FORK OUT AT LEAST 30 MILLION!

BAN, BANJO KUN, PLEASE THINK CAREF -ULLY
HAHA
HE'S SERIOUS
I CALL TAILS FOR ALL THE REMAINING ROUNDS!
HURRY UP!
HEH HEH HEH
YOU SEEMED REALLY WORKED UP.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OK WITH TAILS?
HE DIDN'T CHANGE THE COIN THIS TIME...
WHICH MEANS IT WILL BE HEADS LIKE JUST NOW ...
YES ...

IF MY THEORY IS RIGHT
THIS WILL BE HEADS
OK.
IT'S HEADS AGAIN
IT'S 60 MILLION ALREADY!
IT'S CLEAR TO ME NOW ...
OH NO ...

AND AFTER SWITCHING COINS THE COIN WILL DEFINITELY SHOW HEADS ...





THIS GUY IS CHEATING! THE COIN USED IN THE LAST 2 ROUNDS WILL SHOW TAILS.

BUT ... HOW EXACTLY?

AS LONG AS HE HAS THESE 2 COINS, TOGASHI CAN CONTROL THE SIDE THAT HE WANTS TO TOSS.

TOSS HEADS OR TAILS FREELY?!

OR COULD IT BE POSSIBLE THAT THERE'S A COIN WHERE HE CAN

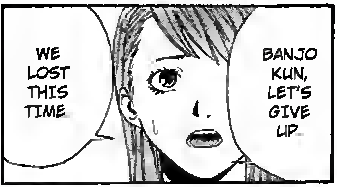
THIS COIN DEFINITELY HAS BOTH FACES ...

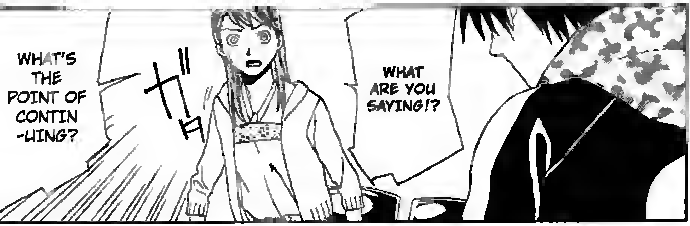
IMPOSSIBLE!
BUT IF MY THEORY IS WRONG THE SITUATION DOESN'T MATCH!
60 MILLION... BASED ON MY SALARY ALONE...
HAHA... I MAY GET FIRED.
WHAT IF I'M FORCED TO COMMIT SEPPUKU!?
I'LL BEHEAD YOU
HATE
HATE
HATE
OH... I'M GETTING DIZZY
KYAAAAA~
DAMN, YOU'RE NOISY, I'M TRYING TO THINK...

THE BENCH MOVED?
...
.....
I SEE. SO IT'S LIKE THAT.
THE GORDIAN KNOT HAS BEEN UNRAVELED!

NO I WIL CONTI -NUE

ALRIGHT, SO WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO? CONTINUE?
HE SHOULD BE GIV -ING UP


BANJO KUN, LET'S GIVE UP
WE LOST THIS TIME

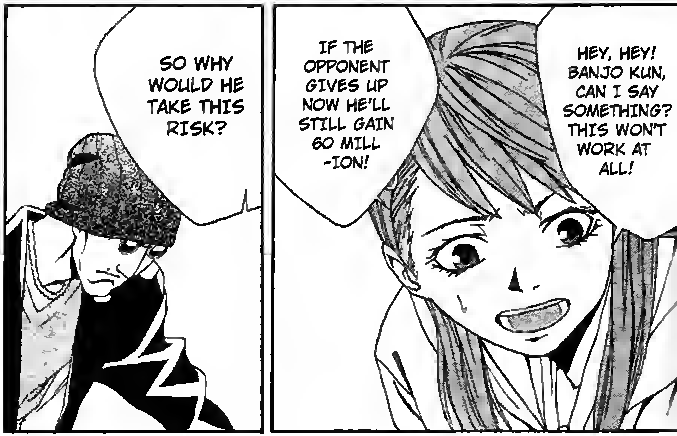

WHAT'S THE POINT OF CONTIN -UING?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?

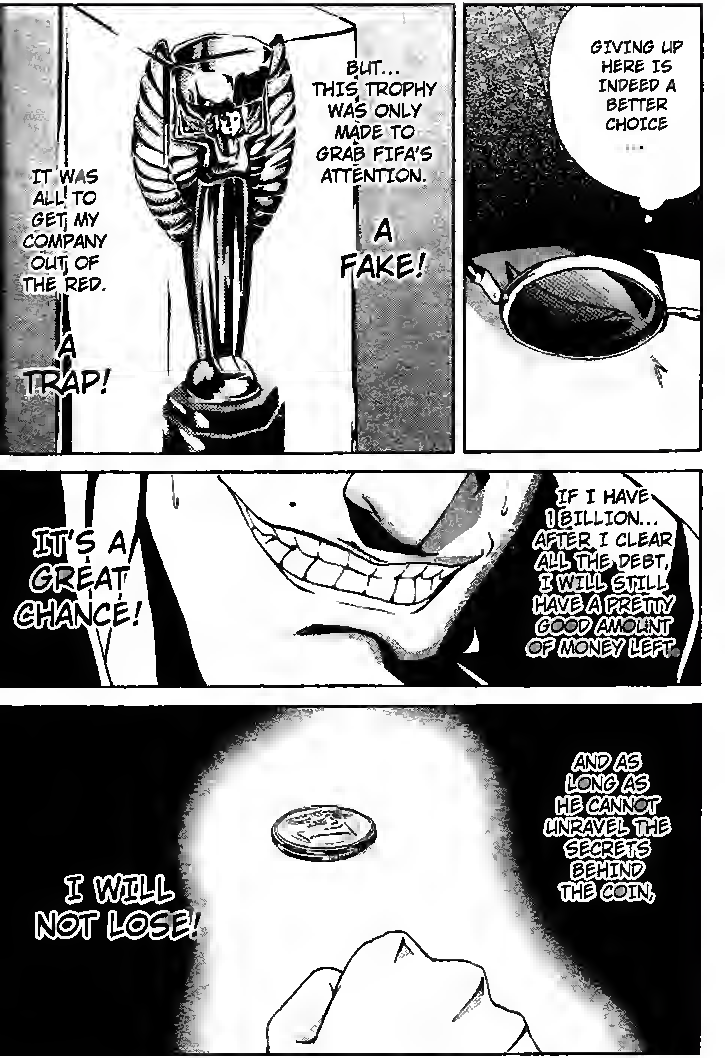
THE POINT OF IT?
HOW CAN WE RETURN AFTER LOSING SO BADLY?

HE SEEMS TO BE REALLY WORKED UP AND CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT.
IT SEEMS I CAN GET 70 MILLION, HUH.
1 BILL -ION ...
HUH?
THIS LAST ROUND, IF YOU WIN
WE'LL PAY 1 BILLION FOR THE TROPHY. HOW ABOUT IT?

BANJO KUN ...
1
BILL -ION?!
CAN YOU GUARANTEE THAT YOU HAVE 1 BILLION?
WELL ... STANLEY IS A GLOBALLY RECOGNIZED ASSOCIATION ...
WHY DO I FEEL KIND OF PROUD?
HEY DON'T MAKE DECISIONS ON YOUR OWN!
... ON WHAT CONDIT -ION?
THERE'S A CATCH TO IT, I BELIEVE?

IF I WIN, SELL IT TO ME FOR 100 YEN!
100


SO WHY WOULD HE TAKE THIS RISK?
IF THE OPPONENT GIVES UP NOW HE'LL STILL GAIN 60 MILL -ION!
HEY, HEY! BANJO KUN, CAN I SAY SOMETHING? THIS WON'T WORK AT ALL!


IT WAS ALL TO GET MY COMPANY OUT OF THE RED.
A TRAP!
BUT... THIS TROPHY WAS ONLY MADE TO GRAB FIFA'S ATTENTION.
A FAKE!
GIVING UP HERE IS INDEED A BETTER CHOICE ...
IT'S A GREAT CHANCE!
IF I HAVE 1 BILLION... AFTER I CLEAR ALL THE DEBT, I WILL STILL HAVE A PRETTY GOOD AMOUNT OF MONEY LEFT.
I WILL NOT LOSE!
AND AS LONG AS HE CANNOT UNRAVEL THE SECRETS BEHIND THE COIN,

PLUS, THIS KID CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT AT ALL NOW, WHICH MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY!
!?
HUH?
THAT'S SO RECK -LESS!
ALRIGHT. DEAL.
ISN'T THAT GOOD?
IF YOU WIN YOU GET THIS WITH JUST A COIN
EVEN THOUGH YOU SAY THAT....

AS LONG AS HE IS OVERCONFIDENT OF HIS SKILLS, THERE'S NO DOUBT HE WILL ACCEPT MY REQUEST.
AND FROM THEN ...
IF I'M RIGHT ...
I'LL RETALIATE!

NA-TSU-KI SAN
DO YOU HAVE A NOTE-BOOK?
YEAH...
IS A MEMO OK?
YEP GIVE IT TO ME
OK. BUT WHAT FOR?
.....?
HERE.
THANKS.
I'LL NEED SOMETHING TO WRITE WITH AS WELL
?
THERE'S A PEN INSIDE THE MEMO

SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I JUST WROTE MY LAST CHOICE ON THE PAPER.
THIS IS TO ENSURE THAT I WON'T REGRET IT
TEARS

ACCORDING TO THE RULES, I JUST HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE FIRST.
WHY?
WAIT
YOU'RE BREAKING THE RULES!
I'LL PLACE IT HERE BEFORE THE ANSWER IS REVEALED.
HOW CAN I KNOW HIS ANSWER ....
DAMN! IF I DON'T KNOW THIS KID'S CHOICE, I CAN'T DECIDE WHICH COIN TO USE ..
HIS ANSWER IS HEADS!
THERE'S LIGHT SHINING THROUGH AND I CAN SEE THE WORD THROUGH THE BACK!
!?

THIS IS ...
THE END FOR YOU!
AS LONG AS I KNOW YOUR ANSWER

I WON!
1 BILL -ION !!!
TAILS!
2002
BANJO KUN!
WHAT DID YOU WRITE?

IT'S HEADS, HEADS!
I DON'T HAVE TO SEE TO KNOW.
LIFTS UP
LET ME LOOK AT IT!
YOU
WHAT ARE YOU DO -ING?
!?

YES
...
IT'S
HEADS
...
EH
...
TAILS
?!

WE ... WE DID IT!
WE GUESSED RIGHT!
AT THE LAST GAME
TOO BAD. IF YOU HAD COMPETED FAIRLY, YOU WOULD HAVE GOTTEN A REWARD NO MATTER WHAT.
THIS KID ... HE SAW THROUGH MY TRICK?!
YOU FORCED ME INTO A CORNER, BUT THAT WAS THE END OF YOUR LUCK.

...
OH YEAH.
100 YEN
100 YEN
WHY
I ACTUALLY LOST TO THIS KID
THIS IS YOUR SERVICE TAX

TO THINK THAT WE GOT IT FOR 100 YEN
LUCK?
IN THE END, LUCK WAS SMILING UPON US

BANJO KUN, YOU DID GREAT!

THAT OLD MAN WAS TRYING TO CHEAT US FROM THE START!
YOU DIDN'T REALIZE AT ALL HUH?
EH?!

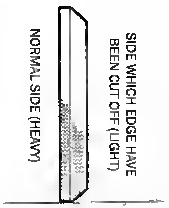
THERE ARE SECRETS TO THE COINS
AND THE ANSWER TO THESE SECRETS IS "WEIGHT"

NO WAY
THEN, WAS HE CHEATING?

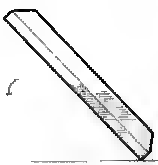
THOSE COINS ARE USED FOR TRICKS AND WILL ONLY SHOW ONE SIDE NO MATTER HOW YOU TOSS IT.

THE TRICK ITSELF IS VERY SIMPLE. ON THE EDGE OF ONE SIDE OF THE COIN, IT IS THINNER, SO THE WEIGHT OF 2 SIDES WILL BE DIFFERENT.

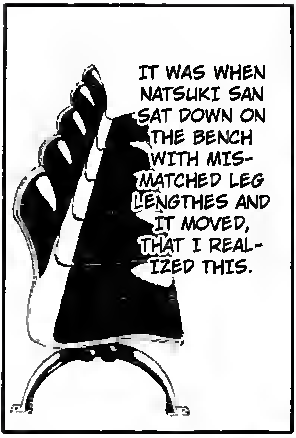
AND THEN, THAT SIDE WILL BE FACE DOWN 100% OF THE TIME.



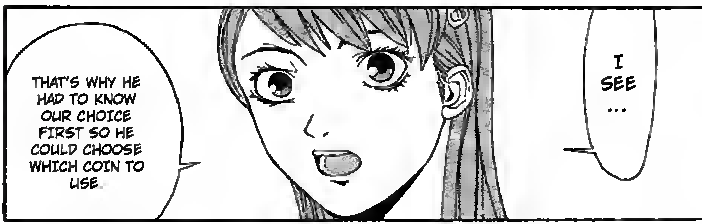
ONNCE IT LOSES ITS SPIN IT WILL FALL TO-WARDS THE SIDE THAT IS HEAVIER.

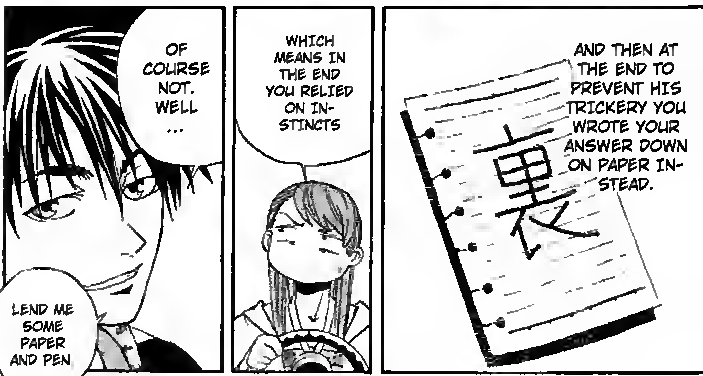


THEREFORE FOR THIS KIND OF COIN, EVEN THOUGH IT CAN MAINTAIN ITS BALANCE WHILE SPINNING

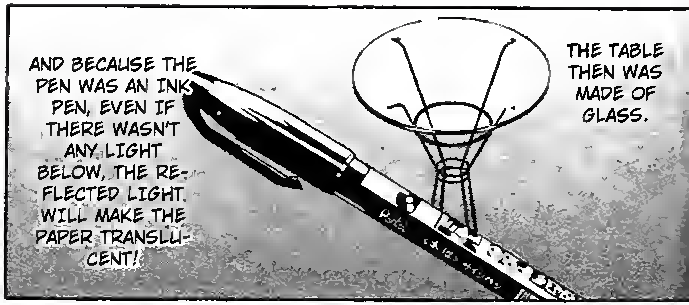

IT WAS WHEN NATSUKI SAN SAT DOWN ON THE BENCH WITH MISMATCHED LEG LENGTHES AND IT MOVED, THAT I REALIZED THIS.

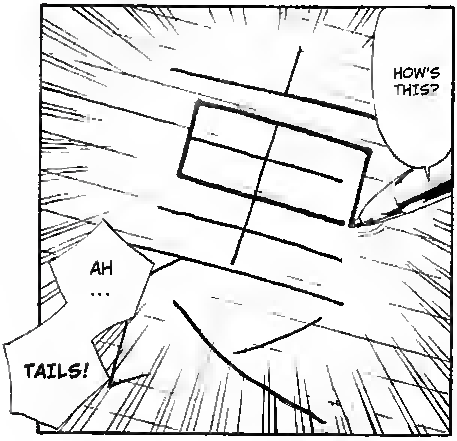
HE WAS USING 2 COINS WITH HEAD AND TAILS CUT OFF RESPECTIVELY TO CONTROL THE GAME.


I SEE ...
THAT'S WHY HE HAD TO KNOW OUR CHOICE FIRST SO HE COULD CHOOSE WHICH COIN TO USE.

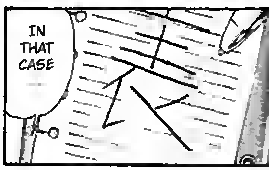

AND THEN AT THE END TO PREVENT HIS TRICKERY YOU WROTE YOUR ANSWER DOWN ON PAPER INSTEAD.
裏
WHICH MEANS IN THE END YOU RELIED ON INSTINCTS
OF COURSE NOT. WELL ...
LEND ME SOME PAPER AND PEN

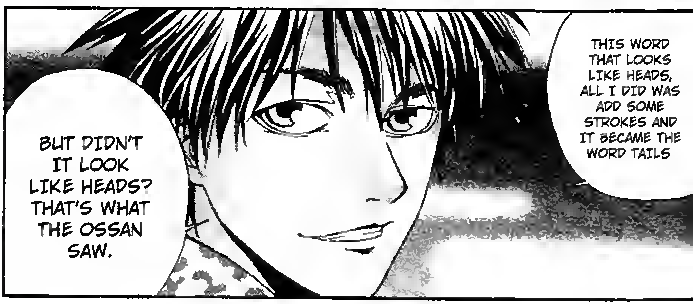
HUH? WHAT FUNNY THING DID YOU DO AGAIN?
DIDN'T YOU WRITE IT DOWN BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T WANT HIM TO KNOW?
THAT TIME, I WROTE SOME-THING ...
AND THIS IS HOW IT AP-PEARED TO THE OPPO-NENT
SEE?
TEARS
OF COURSE NOT.
OH YEAH ...
AH ...
DUE TO THE STREET LIGHTS, THE PAPER BECAME TRANSLU-CENT!


THE TABLE THEN WAS MADE OF GLASS.
AND BECAUSE THE PEN WAS AN INK PEN, EVEN IF THERE WASN'T ANY LIGHT BELOW, THE REFLECTED LIGHT WILL MAKE THE PAPER TRANSLUCENT!

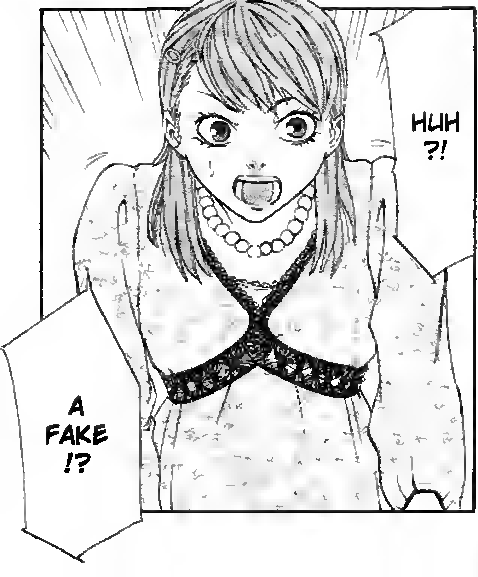

HOW'S THIS?
AH ...
TAILS!

AND THAT WORD SEEMS A BIT WEIRD.
BUT THAT'S WEIRD DIDN'T YOU WRITE TAILS THAT TIME?


IN THAT CASE


BUT DIDN'T IT LOOK LIKE HEADS? THAT'S WHAT THE OSSAN SAW.
THIS WORD THAT LOOKS LIKE HEADS, ALL I DID WAS ADD SOME STROKES AND IT BECAME THE WORD TAILS

BUT HOW DID YOU ADD IN THE EXTRA STROKES? I DIDN'T SEE ANY STRANGE MOVEMENTS FROM YOU
THAT GUY THOUGHT IT WOULD BE HEADS
SO HE USED THE COIN WHICH WOULD SHOW TAILS
THERE'S ANOTHER REASON WHY I USED AN INK PEN
SEE ~
EH?
INK FROM THE PEN?
WATER BASED INK WILL NOT DRY IMMEDIATELY IF IT'S NOT WRITTEN ON PAPER.
I USED THIS TRAIT TO IMPRINT IT ONTO THE PAPER



A FEW DAYS LATER -
STANLEY JAPAN HQ

HE WAS PROBABLY TRYING TO USE THE FAKE TROPHY TO GET MONEY FROM FIFA.
HIS BUSINESS FAILED AND THUS HE'S IN A LOT OF DEBT.
AND OUR INVESTIGATION SHOWED THAT THAT TOGASHI GUY
HEH HEH
YUP. THE AUTHENTIC ASSESSMENT DEPARTMENT SAID THAT IT'S TOTALLY WORTHLESS
AHH... I ALMOST USED A FEW MILLIONS TO BUY A FAKE!
HUH? YOU SAID SOMETHING?
AH ... NOTHING.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHERE'S THE REAL ONE?
PROBABLY WHERE IT REALLY BELONGS.

GORIDIOSU NO MUSUBIME

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Editor: Sunsa

We are looking for:

- Japanese to English Translator
- Chinese to English Translator
- Typesetters
- Redrawers
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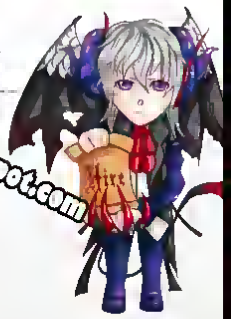


WE ARE IN URGENT NEED OF TYPESETTERS!!!!

Agrypnia Scans

THE GORDIAN KNOT

MISSION 5: RUSSIAN KNIFE ROULETTE

哥帝爾斯的繩結

IN THE YEAR 1789, BASTILLE PRISON WAS ATTACKED AND THUS BEGUN THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.
CLACK
THE FRENCH FIRST REPUBLIC WAS THEN ESTABLISHED HOWEVER THEIR RULE DID NOT LAST LONG, AS NAPOLEON BONAPARTE OVERTHREW THEM ...
HM ...
BANJO, IN WHAT YEAR WAS NAPOLEON CROWNED?
YOU KEPT LOOKING OUTSIDE, DIDN'T YOU?
ME!?

OH! BANJO! YOU CAN DO IT IF YOU WANT TO AFTER ALL!
WELL... HE WAS CROWNED IN 1804, AND HIS REIGN STARTED THEN ...
IN 1805 HE WAS VICTORIOUS AGAINST THE THIRD COALITION AND IN 1806 HE SIGNED THE TREATY OF THE CONFEDERATION OF THE RHINE ...
NOT REALLY ...
TU TU TU TU
AH, MY PHONE
IF YOU HAD THIS KIND OF ATTITUDE NORMALLY, WOULDN'T THAT BE GREAT?
TIME LINE
PAPER
HEHE
HEHE
.....
BANJO. I'M TAKING BACK MY WORDS.
UNDERSTOOD

I HAVE REMEDIAL CLASSES
EH? BUT ISN'T IT SUNDAY TODAY?
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
HUUUH, REMEDIAL? WHY?
IT'S JUST THAT I DON'T WANT TO
HAH IF I WANTED TO DO IT I COULD SO TOTALLY ACE IT
PLEASE FORGIVE ME
SORRY, SORRY!
I TOTALLY FORGOT THAT YOU'RE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL.
OH?
BUT THAT'S WHAT ALL SORE LOSERS SAY.
MERCILESS WORDS
UUUH!

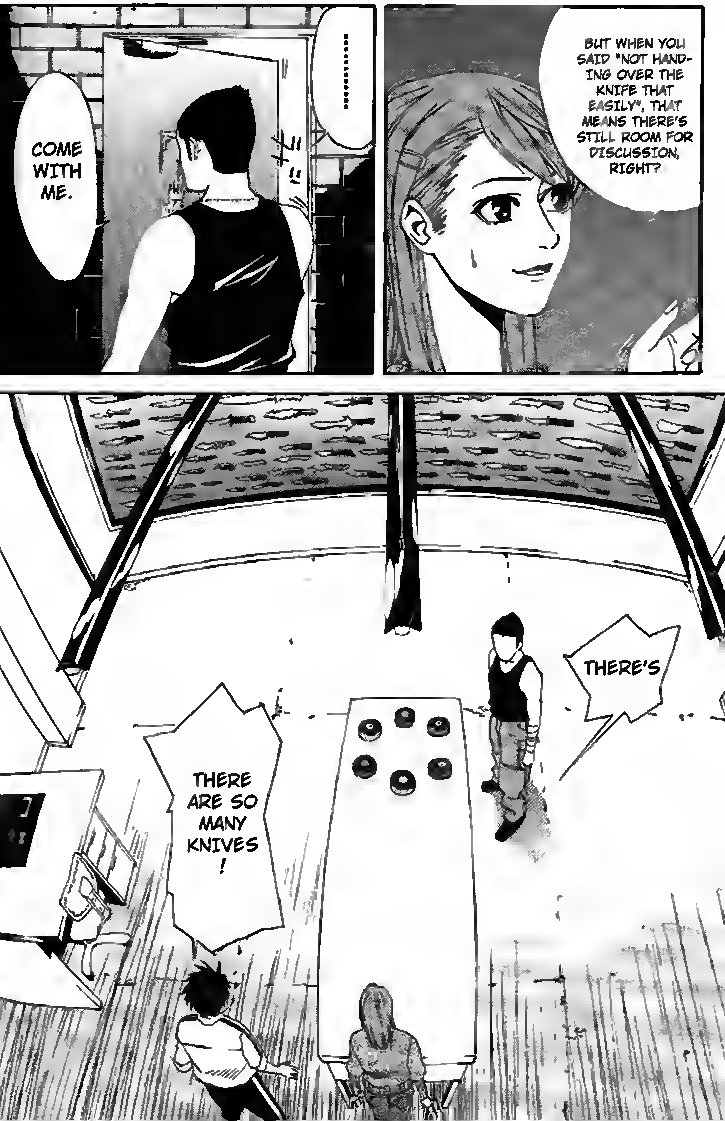
RAMBO ?
WHAT'S THAT?
THE FURIOUS AFGHAN!
IT'S THE MOVIE WITH SYLVESTER STALLONE, A CLASSIC!
HUH, YOU DON'T KNOW?
THAT'S ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER!
YEAH I KNOW. HE BECAME A GOVERNOR RECENTLY, OR SOMETHING.
DON'T ACT LIKE YOU KNOW!

THIS TIME THE TREASURE IS THE BUCK KNIFE, CREATED BY GIL HIBBEN ESPECIALLY FOR THE MOVIE RAMBO III.
AND IT'S NOT A REPLICA EITHER. IT'S THE ONE SYLVESTER USED IN THE MOVIE, THUS MAKING IT REALLY VALUABLE
HM ...

FROM WHAT I KNOW, THE OPPONENT THIS TIME IS PRETTY DANGEROUS.
BAN-JO-KUN, BE CAREFUL
TWO YEARS AGO HE WAS A MERCENARY UNDER THE FRENCH ARMY OF FOREIGNERS.
GULP
SORRY TO
DISTURB ...
KACHAK

WE'RE FROM STANLEY ...!
WHO ARE YOU GUYS?
HIBUN KIRITO

DIDN'T I SAY SO? I'M NOT HANDING OVER THE KNIFE THAT EASILY.
AH, THE ANTIQUE DEALERS?
YOU SURE ARE PERSISTENT.


COME WITH ME.
.....
!!
!!
BUT WHEN YOU SAID "NOT HANDING OVER THE KNIFE THAT EASILY", THAT MEANS THERE'S STILL ROOM FOR DISCUSSION, RIGHT?
THERE'S
THERE ARE SO MANY KNIVES !

.....?
AT FIRST IT WAS JUST A SMALL CUT...
THEN CHERRY RED BLOOD FLOWS DOWN FROM THE RED COLORED MUSCLES ...
THIS BURNING CUT ... ONLY PAIN CAN JUSTIFY
MY REAL PURPOSE IN LIFE!

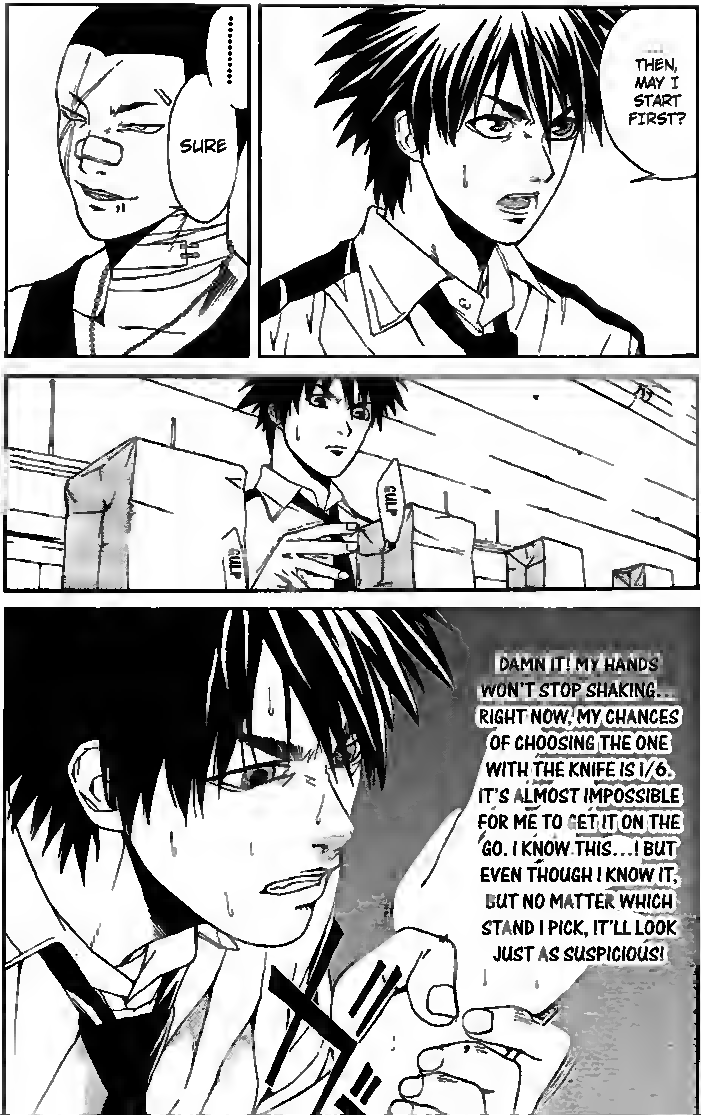
HEH HEH, DO YOU HAVE THE GUTS TO BET WITH ME?
THOSE SCARS... PERHAPS HE MADE THEM ALL HIM-SELF?!
THIS RUS-SIAN KNIFE ROU-LETTE!

VICTORY IS BASED TWO CONDITIONS: IF ONE OF THE PLAYERS GIVES UP OR...
SOMEONE GETS INJURED!
THE RULES ARE SIMPLE... YOU PUT THE KNIVES ON THE STANDS AND COVER THEM WITH A PAPER BAG, AND BOTH PLAYERS WILL PRESS DOWN ON IT.
WHAT?
RIGHT, NOW LET ME SEE JUST HOW MUCH GUTS YOU HAVE!
LICKS
HOW ABOUT YOU BET 1 MILLION?
OF COURSE, THE BET WILL BE ON THIS GILL HIBBEN'S KNIFE!

AL-
RIGHT
...
I TAKE
YOUR
CHAL-
LENGE.
BANJO,
IS THIS
REALLY
AL-
RIGHT?
IF YOU
ACTUALLY
PRESS
ONTO
THIS
...
WHIRLS
.....
IT WON'T BE
A JOKING
MATTER!

DOES THIS GUY... NOT FEEL SCARED AT ALL?
HE REALLY WANTS TO SEE BLOOD?
OR IS IT ...
IT'S READY ...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF. IT'S OK IF YOU REJECT THIS.
BAN JO KUN, IS THIS REALLY FINE?
NATSUKI SAN, MY MOTTO IS TO ACCEPT ALL CHALLENGES THAT COME MY WAY!
NOW YOU, STAND BEHIND THE KID.
STAND WHERE HE CAN'T SEE YOU.
IT'S TO PREVENT CHEATING.
... OK.


SURE
THEN, MAY I START FIRST?
GULP
GULP
DAMN IT! MY HANDS WON'T STOP SHAKING... RIGHT NOW, MY CHANCES OF CHOOSING THE ONE WITH THE KNIFE IS 1/6. IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO GET IT ON THE GO. I KNOW THIS...! BUT EVEN THOUGH I KNOW IT, BUT NO MATTER WHICH STAND I PICK, IT'LL LOOK JUST AS SUSPICIOUS!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
TIME, TIME OUT !!!
I'M ... SAFE?
AH ... AHHH!

HEHEHE ... I JUST HELPED HIM, WITH A LITTLE PUSH.
BUT, DECIDING THE VICTOR THIS WAY IS NOT INTERESTING AT ALL
SO HOW ABOUT I GIVE YOU A LITTLE HANDICAP?
FIRST,
NO. 1!
2!!!
NOW ...
IS, IS HE ...?

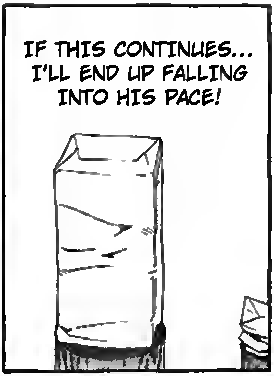
3!
HM ... SO IT'S NONE OF THEM?!

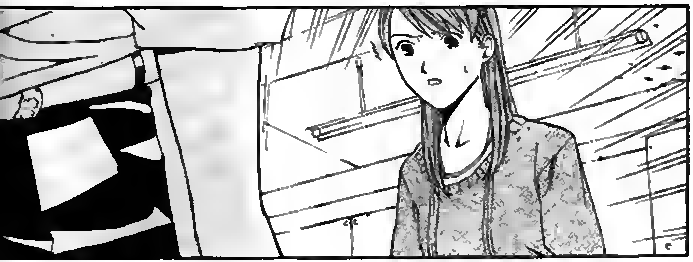
WHAT A ...
FUCKING ASSHOLE!
NO WAY ...
3 AT ONE GO?!
THIS GUY ...!
BUT, NOW THERE'S ONLY 2 MORE LEFT!

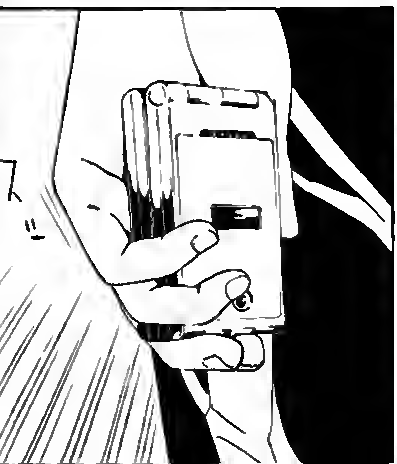
CAN I REALLY WIN AGAINST HIM?!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
IF... IF I LOSE...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

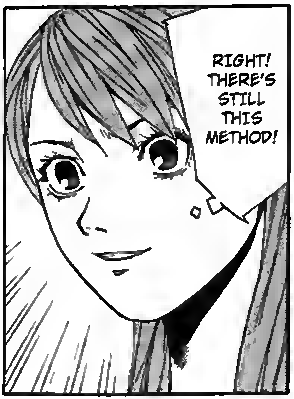
LOSING
!?
BANJO KUN ...
UGH ...
NOT GOOD. HE'S SCARED. I NEED TO FIND A WAY TO TELL HIM ABOUT THE KNIFE'S LOCATION ...
INHALES
EXHALES
CALM DOWN. DON'T LET HIM SCARE YOU. THINK...

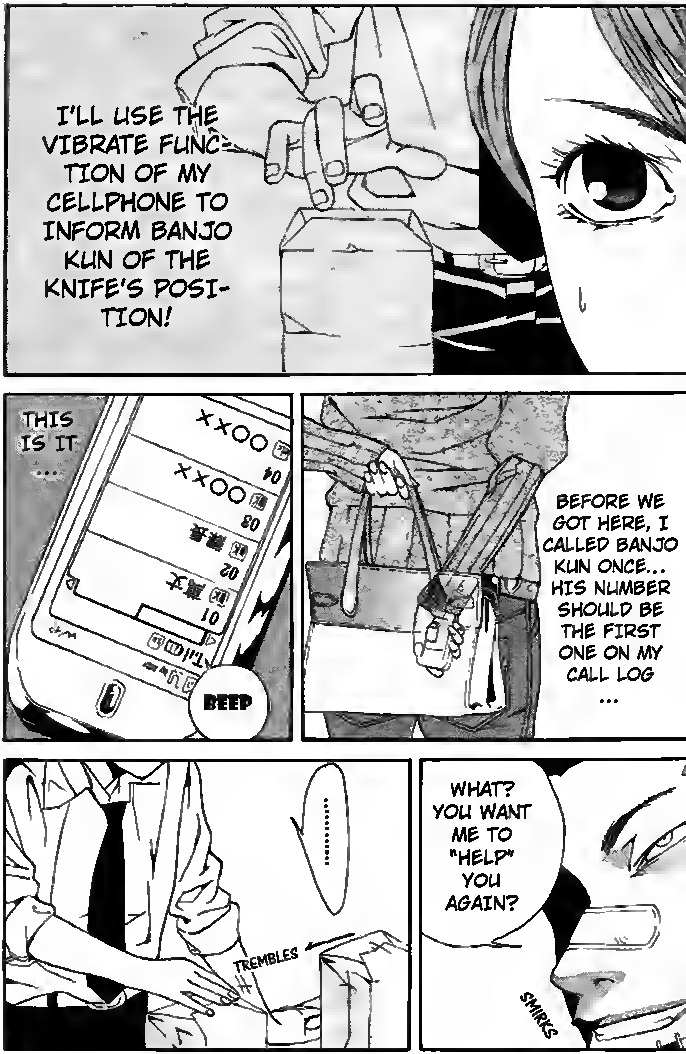
I JUST NEED TO BELIEVE IN MYSELF!


IF THIS CONTINUES... I'LL END UP FALLING INTO HIS PACE!





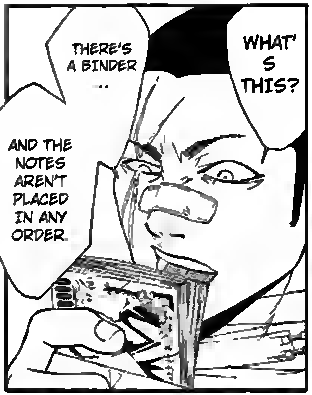

RIGHT! THERE'S STILL THIS METHOD!

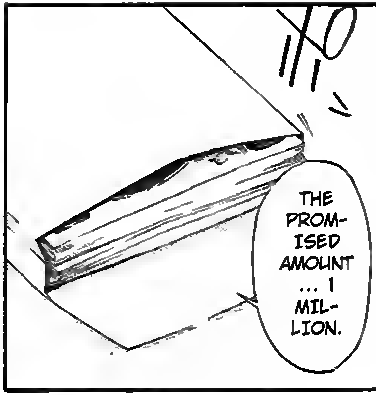

I'LL USE THE VIBRATE FUNCTION OF MY CELLPHONE TO INFORM BANJO KUN OF THE KNIFE'S POSITION!
THIS IS IT ...
BEEP
BEFORE WE GOT HERE, I CALLED BANJO KUN ONCE... HIS NUMBER SHOULD BE THE FIRST ONE ON MY CALL LOG ...
.....
TREMBLES
WHAT? YOU WANT ME TO "HELP" YOU AGAIN?
SMIRKS

AH ...!
THAT ...
RIGHT NOW!
BEEP
TU TU TU TU TU TU TU TU TU
WHY ...?

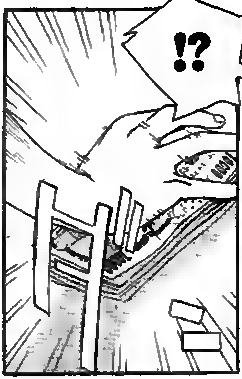
GIVE IT!
SORRY,
MY FRIEND CALLED
WAS THAT YOUR PHONE ?!
WHAT WAS THAT?
DAMNED BRAT! WHO THE HELL IS FLAT CHESTED ALIEN?! BUT THANK GOD IT'S NOT MY REAL NAME
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU
I FEEL A MENACING AURA?
INCOMING LOG
01 FLAT CHESTED ALIEN
090-XXXX-XXXX
02 FLAT CHESTED ALIEN
090-XXXX-XXXX
FLAT CHEST-ED ALIEN ...?!
WHY THE HELL DID YOU USE THAT AS MY NICKNAME?!
UPPER HOOK
LIMP H!
WHAT, WHY?!
LOWERS HEAD
ISN'T THAT YOU?!

!!
HEY... STOP FUCKING WITH ME!
SINCE YOU CHEATED, IT SHOULD BE MY WIN.
GOT A PROB-LEM WITH THAT?!


WHAT'S THIS?
THERE'S A BINDER..
AND THE NOTES AREN'T PLACED IN ANY ORDER.


THE PROMISED AMOUNT... 1 MILLION.

BAH, HOW DO YOU EXPECT ME TO USE THIS? DAMN
!!

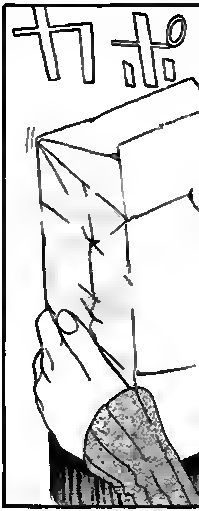

!?

IF NOTHING ELSE, LEAVE NOW.
AH, WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE?
BANJO KUN?
SLAP'S DOWN ON

BANJO KUN?
WHAT DO YOU WANT ?
PLEASE BET WITH ME AGAIN ...
PLEASE !!!
HEH, YOU'RE SO SHAME LESS.
JUST BY BEGGING, EVEN A CHILD WOULDN'T LISTEN TO YOU.
OF COUR SE,
THERE WILL AD- DITIONAL CONDI- TIONS ...
IS HE PLANNING ON MAKING DECI- SIONS BY HIMSELF AGAIN?

I KNEW IT!
HELLO, CHIEF?
FOR THE FUNDS, 1 MILLION... NO, CAN I HAVE AN ADDITIONAL 2 MILLION?
YES, YES SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU...
NO, 2 MILLION!
OUR ORIGINAL BET WAS 1 MILLION, SO HOW ABOUT ANOTHER MILLION ...

IT'S DONE.

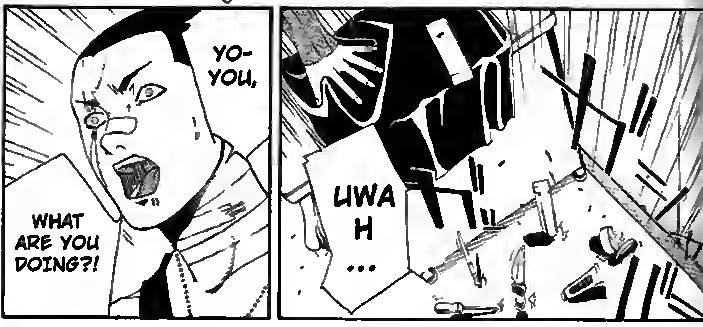


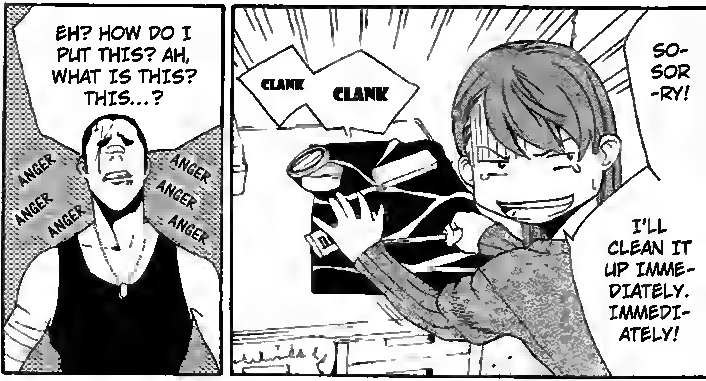
HEY, KID
KNOW THAT IF YOU CHEAT AGAIN ...
I KNOW.
HEHEHE, MORON.
TO THINK HE'S SCARED OF THESE FAKE BANDAGES THAT I PUT ON FOR SHOW.

AS LONG AS YOU DON'T GET CAUGHT, IT'S FINE!
EVEN IF YOU WANT TO CHEAT ...
THIS ONE, HUH?
I'LL START THIS TIME, IS THAT FINE?
YEAH.

I'LL START WITH THIS!
FIRST OFF ...
IT'S YOUR TURN NEXT.
DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID ?
BANJO KUN, BE CARE-FUL!
5 LEFT... THOUGH THE CHANCE OF GETTING IT IS 1/5, IT'S STILL A CHANCE!
AH AH ...

KYA!
IF NOT, THIS TIME YOU WILL END UP WITH A BIG HOLE IN YOUR HAND!
ズサッ


YO-YOU,
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
UWAH...


EH? HOW DO I PUT THIS? AH, WHAT IS THIS? THIS...?
ANGER
ANGER
ANGER
ANGER
ANGER
ANGER
CLANK
CLANK
SO-SOR-RY!
I'LL CLEAN IT UP IMME-DIATELY. IMMEDI-ATELY!

BUT THAT JERK HAS IS OVERLY OBSESSED WITH THE ITEM PLACEMENT ...
WHAT ARE THEY DOING EXACTLY ...?
THIS ISN'T SUP-POSED TO BE HERE!
FOR GET IT!
WAH !
EVEN THE CARVING ON THE WOOD IS PARTICULAR ...
THIS STAND SEEMS TO BE CUSTOM MADE AS WELL, WHAT A FIT.
THAT GUY DIDN'T REALIZE ANYTHING?
EH? THIS IS ...

IT'S MADE TO BE SO!
IF THAT'S THE CASE ...
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO NOT SEE IT.
SUCH AN UP-TIGHT PERSON ...
THE GORDI-AN KNOT HAS BEEN UNRAV-ELED!
THERE'S A TRICK IN THIS BET

SORRY ABOUT THE WAIT
!?
AH!
GOOD JOB, KID.
.....
THERE'S ONLY 3 LEFT NOW. ISN'T IT
LET ME SEE YOUR HAND BEING PUNCTURED!
CONTINUE ON LIKE THIS AND SHOW ME!

WHA...

BR-BRAT! WHAT ARE YOU UP TO!?
... LET ME MAKE A PRE-DIC-TION ...
BANJO KUN?
THE ONE WHO WILL GET A HOLE IN HIS HAND WILL BE YOU!

I NEED TO FINISH IT BEFORE ANYTHING TROUBLESOME HAPPENS...
BAH! NO WAY WOULD THAT HAPPEN
HEH ... THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
WHAT'S WITH THE CONFIDENCE?
THE VICTOR IS STILL UNCLEAR, RIGHT?
AH?
GLANCE

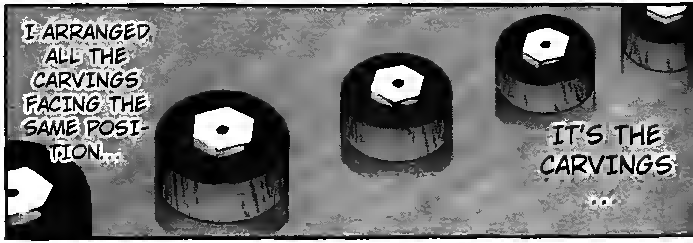
A KN-
KNIFE
?!
AH!
WHEN DID HE TAKE IT OUT?
AH, AUGH!
SCARED

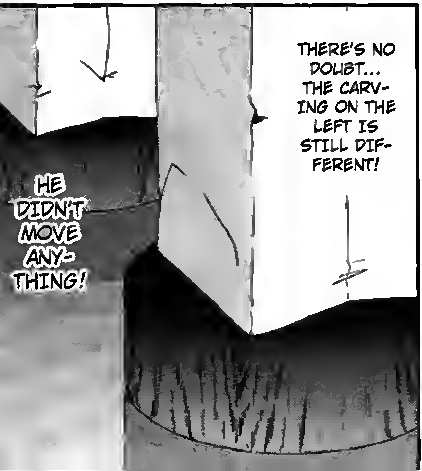
I'M JUST KID-DING
BRAT! WHAT ARE YOU PLAN-NING?!
WHEN DID HE SWITCH HANDS? HOW NIMBLE
GASP?! THIS GUY ... IS IT POSSI-BLE?
HE SWITCHED THE PO-SITIONS?

!!
SHIT! WAS IT THEN?
FORGET IT!
IMPOSSIBLE
THERE'S NOT ENOUGH TIME FOR HIM TO DO SO
...
BANJO KUN, IS THAT TRUE?
HEY, HEY!
YOU BETTER HAVE PROOF!
HMPH ...
YOU CHEAT-ED
RIGHT ?

CALM... CALM DOWN. HE MIGHT NOT HAVE DONE ANYTHING...
WAI- WAIT !
I'LL CHOOSE !

IF THAT'S THE CASE, HOW ABOUT I GO FIRST?
WHY? ARE YOU SCARED?


I ARRANGED ALL THE CARVINGS FACING THE SAME POSI- TION...
IT'S THE CARVINGS ...


HE DIDN'T MOVE ANY- THING!
THERE'S NO DOUBT... THE CARV- ING ON THE LEFT IS STILL DIF- FERENT!

THEREFORE THE ONE WITH THE KNIFE WILL HAVE THE CARVINGS FACING DIF- FERENTLY FROM THE REST.
BUT TO FIXATE THE KNIFE, TWISTING WILL BE IN- VOLVED

MORON!
IN ACTUAL FACT YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING...
TRYING TO PULL A BLUFF ON ME?!
I FOUND OUT ABOUT YOUR TRICK FOR THIS!

IF I LOOK CLEARLY, THE ONE ON THE RIGHT HAS BEEN MOVED AS WELL?
WAIT, WAIT A MINUTE
DON'T BE TRICKED. IT'S THE RIGHT! PRESS DOWN THAT ONE ...
WHA...! WHAT WAS THAT? A HALLUCI-NATION?
NO, NO... IF HE DIDN'T MOVE ANY-THING...
OR... THE KNIFE IS IN THE LEFT SIDE?
RIGHT
FROM HIS CON-FIDENCE, IT'S ...
LEFT
RIGHT
BLOOD
IT'S ... IT'S ...

AGH
!!!
AGH
AGH!!!

WE DID IT!
IT SEEMS LIKE
IT'S MY VICTO-RY!!!
... THAT'S WEIRD ...

OF COURSE. WHERE WOULD I GET THE TIME TO DO A SWITCH?
THIS IS THE POSITION I PLACED IT IN. NO DOUBTS ABOUT IT.
YEP
AND WITH THE KNIFE PERFORMANCE, I PLACED SEED OF DOUBTS IN HIM ABOUT ME POSSIBLY "DOING A SWITCH"
I REMOVED THE OTHER 4 STANDS SO THAT HE WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO COMPARE AGAINST
HE'S USING THE WOODEN CARVINGS AS A HINT TO THE KNIFE'S POSITION. TO CONFUSE THAT BASTARD
AND AFTER THAT IT'S HIS OWN DOUBTS THAT DID HIM IN
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, HIBUN SAN?

NEVER THOUGHT HE WOULD BE SUCH SCAREDY CAT.
HE CAN'T HEAR ME, IT SEEMS ...
I WANT TO WATCH THIS MOVIE! MANY PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT IT
HEY, IT'S START-ING!
YEAH! HEY, BANJO THIS IS A GREAT MOVIE
HE HE
MES-SAGE? WHO IS IT?
NOW OF ALL TIMES

IT'S A LITTLE URGENT
THERE'S A JOB FOR YOU! I'M AT THE PARKING LOT. COME HERE IMMEDIATELY
(^ニ^)☆
IF YOU DON'T COME PREPARE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES
AW MAN
1/51
001 STANLEY BEAUTY
IT'S A LITTLE URGENT
002
003
STAN-LEY...? COULD IT BE NAT-SUKI SAN?
OH YEAH, SHE WAS THE ONE WHO GAVE THIS PHONE TO ME...
THE TIME WAS CHANG ED?!
EH? HEY, BANJO ...?!
MY LIFE IS MORE IMPOR-TANT
SORRY, SORRY. SOME-THING URGENT CAME UP I HAVE TO LEAVE FIRST
BUT HOW DOES SHE KNOW WHERE I AM?! DID SHE PUT A TRANSMITTER ON ME?
I HAVE TO HAND IT TO HER. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE FELT MURDEROUS INTENT THROUGH A TEXT...

STANLEY CORPORATION
THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK!
NAT-SUKI, BYE
HUM
HUM
HUM

UMPH!
...!?
AH ...
AH ... UN ...
RUMBLES

GORIDIOSU NO MUSUBIME

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We are looking for:

- Japanese to English Translator
- Chinese to English Translator
- Typesetters
- Redrawers
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MISSION 6:
BATTLE AGAINST SIKARU (PART ONE)
EH?
HEY, BAN JO.
IF YOU'RE NOT GOING HOME, WHAT SAY WE STOP BY MCDONALD'S?
AH, SORRY ...
I'M WORKING PART-TIME TODAY
PART-TIME!? HEY, IS THIS TO DO WITH THE STANLEY CORPORATION?
WH-WHY!?
EH!?
YOU'RE A REALLY LUCKY PERSON.

AH, ACTUALLY IT'S REALLY HARD ON ME YOU KNOW!
ARGH!
I HAVE TO PLAY IN WITH HER TEMPERING EVERY TIME.
IT'S NOT LIKE A GAME AT ALL. UP TO SOME EXTENT MY LIFE WAS AT RISK
HALF CAN BE DEEMED AS A GAME
CHU
TO BE ABLE TO BE WITH SOMEONE LIKE NATSUKI SAN BY DOING A LITTLE GAMBLING
MY JOB CONSIST OF DEALING WITH THOSE PEOPLE THAT ARE ONLY WILLING TO CONSIDER LETTING GO OF THEIR COLLECTION IF THEY LOSE DURING A GAME
I WAS ALMOST MADE INTO SASHIMI, SADLY!
THAT TIME
I'M BANJO YUKI. EVEN THOUGH I AM JUST AN ORDINARY HIGH SCHOOLER, I HAVE A BIT OF AN EXOTIC JOB.
DON'T CALL IT DECEITFUL INTELLECT!
HM, EVEN THOUGH I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND, IT'S A GOOD THING YOU'RE NOT USING YOUR DECEITFUL INTELLECT FOR COMMITTING CRIMES
I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE ONLY A SWINDLER

AH? NAT-SUKI'S HERE?
SO YOU ARE HAPPY ...

T/N INNUENDO!

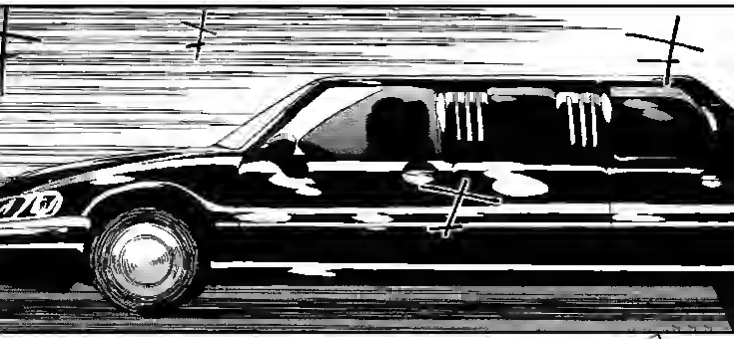
OPEN?

IT'S VERY LONG
EH? THAT'S NOT RIGHT ...
THIS ISN'T THE USUAL CAR ...

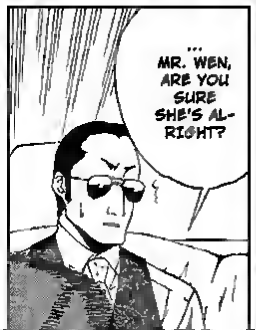
ARE YOU BANJO ?

AH, YES, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE MET
HAH HAH HAH
I AM DUOJING WEN, THE SECTION CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSACTIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS, FROM STANLEY CORPORATION
HAH HAH
HOW DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
.....!?
HAH HAH HAH
HAH HAH HAH
I'VE HEARD QUITE A BIT ABOUT YOU FROM NATSUKI
YOU'VE BEEN HELPING A LOT
HAH HAH HAH
IT'S NOTHING, REALLY
NO, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT
I THINK WE'RE GOING TO GET ALONG JUST FINE
INDEED. I THINK I'LL CALL YOU "MR WEN"
AH! AH!

T/N YEAH, THEY'RE DEFINITELY BOTH PERVERTS.

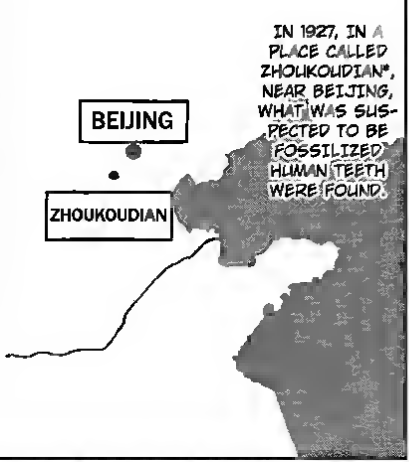


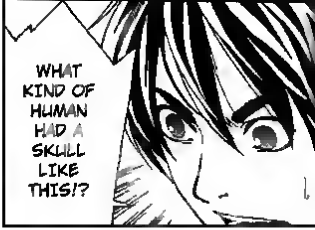
HOW ON EARTH --?!
NAT-SUKI'S BEEN KID-NAPPED ?!

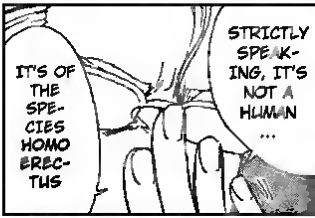

... MR. WEN, ARE YOU SURE SHE'S AL-RIGHT?

CALM DOWN, AND LET ME EXPLAIN FROM THE BEGINNING ...
WHERE IS SHE?!
IS SHE OKAY ?!

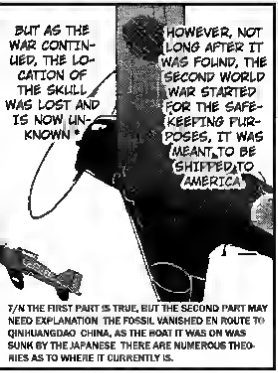
FIRST OF ALL, I DIDN'T REALISE YOU WERE SUCH A VOLA-TILE CHILD.
???
!?
IF MR. DUOJING WEN SAYS SO. ..
EVEN THOUGH HE'S YOUNG, HE'S STILL EXTREMELY OUT-STANDING IN TERMS OF INTELLIGENCE. ALSO, DON'T FORGET THAT THIS IS TO DO WITH THAT INCIDENT
MR. MAYA,
MANJOU, DON'T GET ANGRY! HE'S THE AM-BASSADOR OF THE AMERICAN SECRET SER-VICE, MR. MAYA!
WHAAT ?!
!?
AH? WHAT'S HAP-PENED TO NAT-SUKI?
WELL, PLEASE LOOK AT THE DE-TAILS FIRST.
... OKAY!
LESS TALKING, MORE LOOK-ING!


IN 1927, IN A PLACE CALLED ZHOUKOUDIAN*, NEAR BEIJING, WHAT WAS SUSPECTED TO BE FOSSILIZED HUMAN TEETH WERE FOUND.
BEIJING
ZHOUKOUDIAN

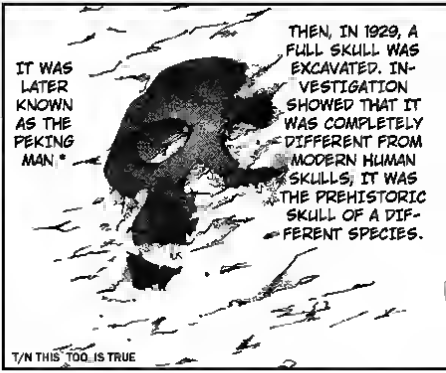




T/N ZHOUKOUDIAN IS ACTUALLY A REAL PLACE, AND A FOSSILIZED TOOTH ACTUALLY WAS UNEARTHED IN 1927.


BUT AS THE WAR CONTINUED, THE LOCATION OF THE SKULL WAS LOST AND IS NOW UNKNOWN *
HOWEVER, NOT LONG AFTER IT WAS FOUND, THE SECOND WORLD WAR STARTED FOR THE SAFE-KEEPING PURPOSES, IT WAS MEANT TO BE SHIPPED TO AMERICA

T/N THE FIRST PART IS TRUE, BUT THE SECOND PART MAY NEED EXPLANATION. THE FOSSIL VANISHED EN ROUTE TO QINHUANGDAO, CHINA, AS THE BOAT IT WAS ON WAS SUNK BY THE JAPANESE. THERE ARE NUMEROUS THEORIES AS TO WHERE IT CURRENTLY IS.


IT WAS LATER KNOWN AS THE PEKING MAN *
THEN, IN 1929, A FULL SKULL WAS EXCAVATED. INVESTIGATION SHOWED THAT IT WAS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM MODERN HUMAN SKULLS; IT WAS THE PREHISTORIC SKULL OF A DIFFERENT SPECIES.

T/N THIS TOO, IS TRUE

SOME GUY CALLED "SIKARU (SKULL)"
EVEN THOUGH THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY CONTACTED SIKORU MANY TIMES,
THE BASTARD IS UNINTERESTED IN ANY MONETARY EXCHANGE, SO WE'VE NEVER MANAGED TO ESTABLISH A TRANSACTION ...
THAT'S WHEN THEY CHOSE THE TRANSACTION-ABLE STANLEY CORPORATION... AND KIDNAPPED NATSUKI TO GET OUR ATTENTION.
THIS IS A FAX I RECEIVED TODAY.

...!? WHAT IS THIS?

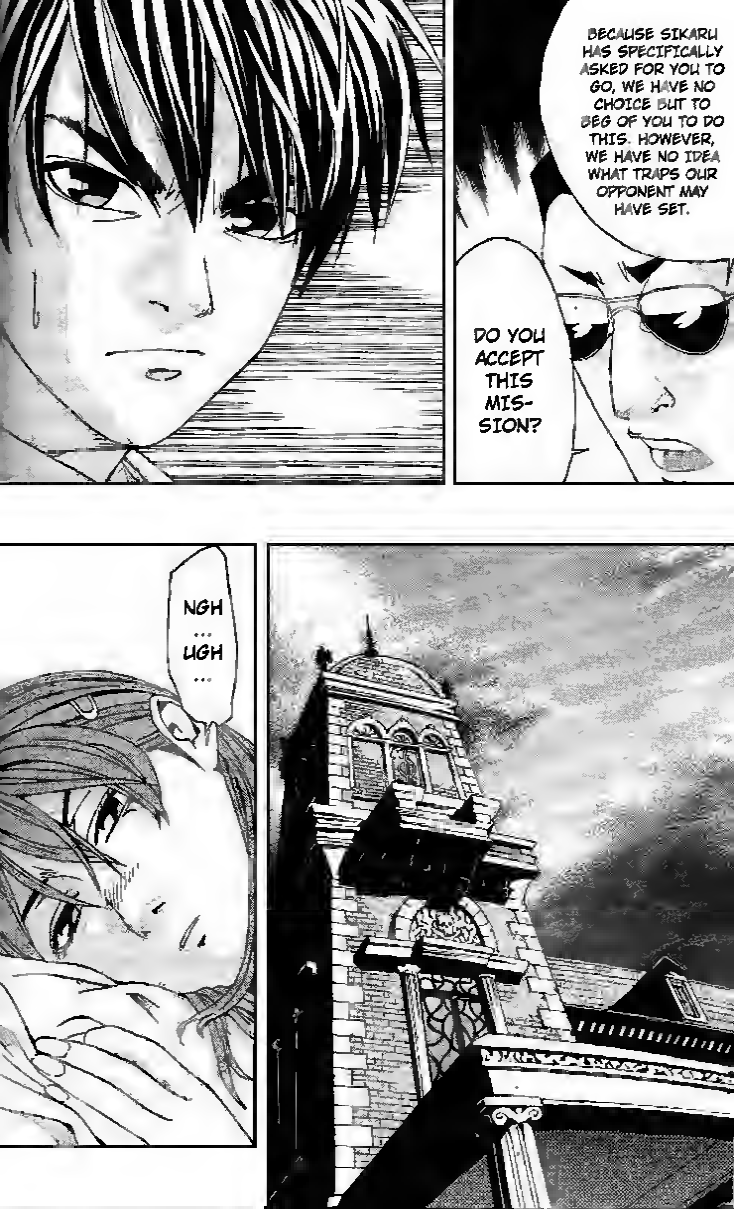
TONIGHT, AT 7PM, MEET ME AT STALL 3-29-5 AT THE PORT TO COMMENCE A GAMBLING-STYLE TRANSACTION
HOWEVER, THE TRANSACTOR MUST BE MANJOU YUKI.
IF THESE DEMANDS ARE NOT MET, YOU WILL NEVER SEE AGAIN WHAT LIES WITHIN OUR HANDS

SIKARU

HE WANTS ME TO GO!?

...
THESE PHOTOGRAPHS ARE GENUINE... STANLEY'S SECURITY CAMERAS HAVE ALSO RECORDED THIS
...

AND-- THIS IS NATSUKI!?


BECAUSE SIKARU HAS SPECIFICALLY ASKED FOR YOU TO GO, WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BEG OF YOU TO DO THIS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TRAPS OUR OPPONENT MAY HAVE SET.
DO YOU ACCEPT THIS MIS-SION?
NGH ... UGH ...

AH, MORI NATSUKI. YOU'RE AWAKE.
!!
EH? I ...
I WAS GOING TO DRIVE MY CAR
WHO ARE YOU?!
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING THIS FOR, I WON'T LET YOU OFF SO EASILY!
LET ME GO!
YES.
BEEP BEEP
HEHEHE
WHETHER OR NOT YOU CAN GO DEPENDS ON YOUR "PARTNER"
...
"PART-NER"? YOU MEAN BANJO?!

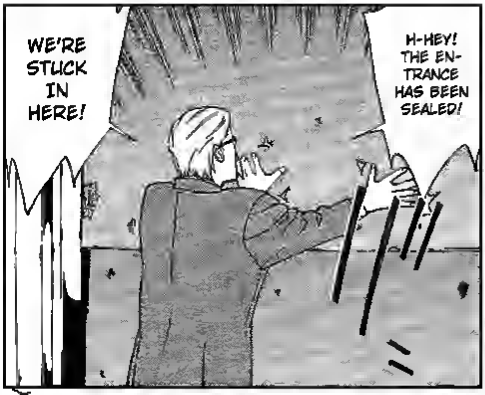
LET'S SEE HOW GOOD HE REALLY IS!!
NO, LET ME GO IN WITH MR. MAYA INSTEAD.
BANJO, LET ME GO WITH YOU.
TO ME, NATSUKI IS A VERY IMPORTANT EMPLOYEE.
BANJO
DON'T WORRY. I'LL DEFINITELY BRING BACK NATSUKI.
IN CASE ANYTHING HAPPENS, IT'S BETTER IF YOU STAY HERE.
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS IF WE ALL GO INTO A SUSPICIOUS HOUSE, WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT'LL OCCUR.

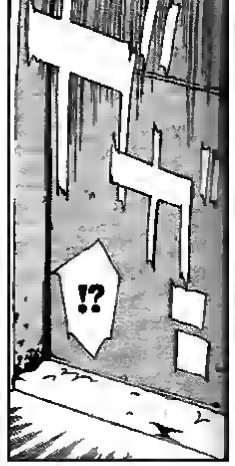
I UNDER-STAND. I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU!
...NO-ONE'S HERE?
!!
IZZA

!!
I'VE HEARD OF YOUR PERFOR-MANCE AT STANLEY CORP.
WELCOME TO MY LAIR, BANJO.
A MASK ...!?
IT'S A PLEAS-URE TO MEET YOU.
YOU'RE SIKARU, THEN?

... HEHE
YOU KIDNAPPED NATSUKI JUST TO FIND ME!!
HOWEVER, IT SEEMS YOU'RE FAIRLY DENSE.
SO RELEASE NATSUKI IMMEDIATELY!
... THAT'S ENOUGH. IF IT'S A GAME, I'LL PLAY IT!
DON'T SAY IT LIKE THAT. IF I WANT TO PLAY A GAME, I OBVIOUSLY NEED
FOR THE KNIGHT TO RESCUE THE KIDNAPPED PRINCESS, A LIFE-STAKING GAMBLE... I TAKE IT THIS SORT OF STORY IS QUITE EMOTIONAL?
IT SEEMS YOU STILL DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND. I'VE ALREADY SAID IT; I OBVIOUSLY NEED ANOTHER PERSON.

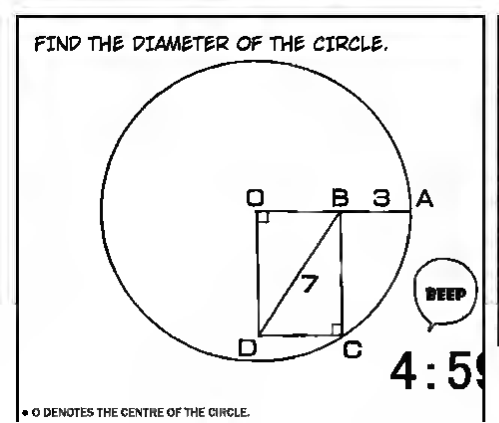
WH-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
DON'T WORRY ... SO LONG AS YOU WIN THIS GAME, AND FIND HER, I'LL RETURN HER TO YOU.
OF COURSE, I'LL ALSO RETURN THE PEKING MAN.
THIS IS THE GAME'S ONLY RULE.
I KNEW YOU WOULD.
SNAP!
... I UNDERSTAND.

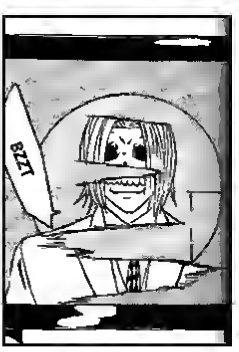

WE'RE STUCK IN HERE!
H-HEY! THE ENTRANCE HAS BEEN SEALED!


!?

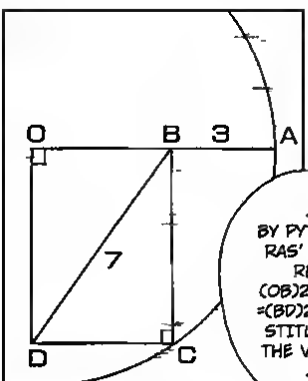
NOW, LET'S BEGIN STAGE 1 OF THE GAME!
WERE YOU TO SAY YOU WANTED TO QUIT HALFWAY THROUGH, I WOULD BE VERY WORRIED.

SORRY, THIS IS JUST SO YOU CAN'T ESCAPE FROM THE BATTLE


FIND THE DIAMETER OF THE CIRCLE.
O
B
3
A
7
D
C
BEEP
4:5
• O DENOTES THE CENTRE OF THE CIRCLE.


EZZI

WHEN YOU ANSWER THIS QUESTION CORRECTLY, THE DOOR WILL OPEN, AND YOU WILL BE ALLOWED IN.
HOWEVER, YOU HAVE A TIME LIMIT OF 5 MINUTES!
T/N THE TRANSLATOR HAS ALREADY WORKED OUT THE ANSWER!!
!?
WAIT... WHAT IF WE CAN'T ANSWER IT?
WHAT
OBVIOUSLY THE PRINCESS AND THE PEKING MAN WILL BE FOREVER LEFT IN THE DARKNESS.
WH--WHAT ARE YOU SAYING! B-BASTARD! DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH THAT THING IS WORTH?!
IT'S AN INTERNATIONAL TREASURE!
...
I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO STAND AROUND CHATTING IDLY... HEHEHE.
4:21
BEEP
BEEP
UGH



... BY PYTHAGORAS' THEOREM, (OB)2+(OD)2 =(BD)2. SUBSTITUTE IN THE VALUES ...

THE DIAMETER OF THE CIRCLE? FINE, I JUST HAVE TO WORK OUT OB.

B-BASTARD!

WAIT, NO! OD ISN'T GIVEN EITHER, SO THERE'S NO WAY I CAN USE PYTHAGORAS!?

LOOK LEFT

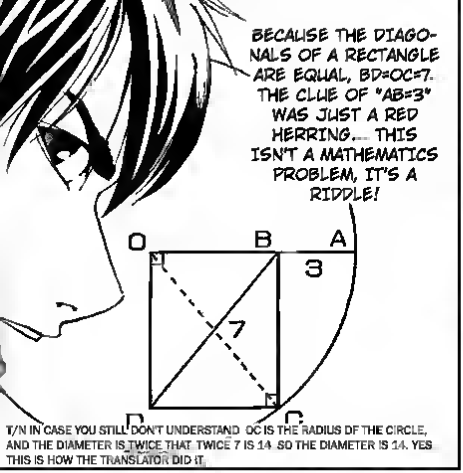
LOOK RIGHT

HEY! ARE YOU NOT GOING TO WORK ON THIS EITHER?

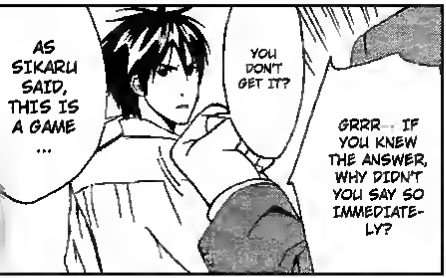
4:01

110
... YOU'RE VERY ANNOY-ING..
I DON'T CARE WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO YOUR FRIEND, BUT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT AN IN-TERNATIONAL TREASURE HERE!
OI YOU! WHAT'RE YOU DOING, SPACING AT A TIME LIKE THIS!?
WHAT !?
HEY, LET ME TO IT TO YOU STRAIGH T!
I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR STUPID FOSSIL, NATSUKI'S IN TROU-BLE!
WH AT ~ ~
HEY, LET ME TO IT TO YOU STRAIG HT!

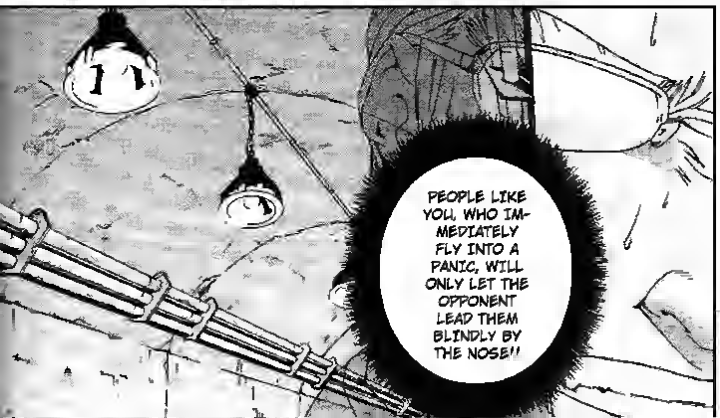
... THE ANSWER SHOULD BE 14.
WHAT !?
UGH
BUT THERE'S LESS THAN A MINUTE LEFT
HEHAHA YOU'RE BECOMING JUST AS HEROIC AS A KNIGHT
... WELL SAID.
WHAT !?
CORRECT--AS EXPECTED FROM BANJO.
.....
BZZ
YOU IMBECILE! RELYING ON INTUITION AT THIS TIME ...
N/T THAT'S THE FOURTH "WHAT" BY MR. MAYA IN TWO PAGES...
DONG
KA-CHACK
HEHE, ABOUT THAT... TIME TO MOVE ONTO THE NEXT
YOU DIDN'T THINK I'D LOSE SO EASILY, DID YOU?


BECAUSE THE DIAGONALS OF A RECTANGLE ARE EQUAL, BD=OC=7. THE CLUE OF "AB=3" WAS JUST A RED HERRING... THIS ISN'T A MATHEMATICS PROBLEM, IT'S A RIDDLE!
O
B
A
3
7
D
C
T/N IN CASE YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND: OC IS THE RADIUS OF THE CIRCLE, AND THE DIAMETER IS TWICE THAT. TWICE 7 IS 14. SO THE DIAMETER IS 14. YES, THIS IS HOW THE TRANSLATOR DID IT.

HOLD ON,
WHY IS IT 14... !?

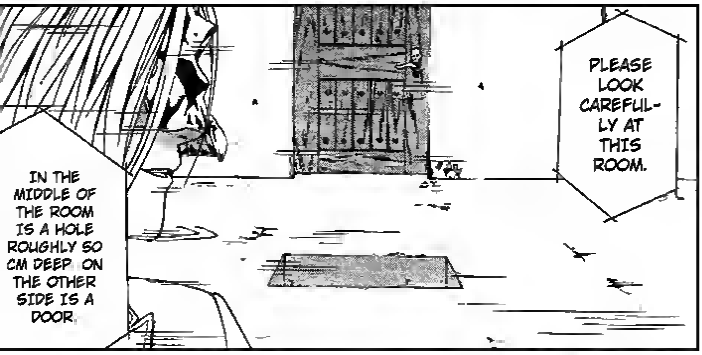

AS SIKARU SAID, THIS IS A GAME ...
YOU DON'T GET IT?
GRRR... IF YOU KNEW THE ANSWER, WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO IMMEDIATELY?

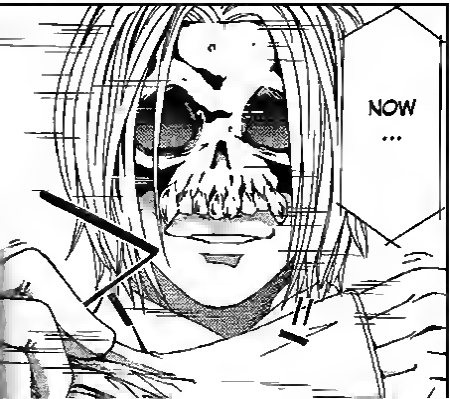
AH ...


PEOPLE LIKE YOU, WHO IMMEDIATELY FLY INTO A PANIC, WILL ONLY LET THE OPPONENT LEAD THEM BLINDLY BY THE NOSE!!

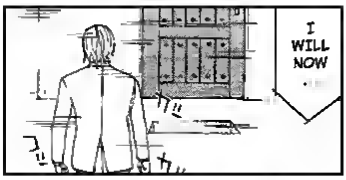
...
WHAT? IS THIS REALLY THE INSIDE OF A BUILDING!?
IT'S LIKE A GARBAGE DUMP IN HERE...
IZZI
...
IT'S A DOOR.
!!

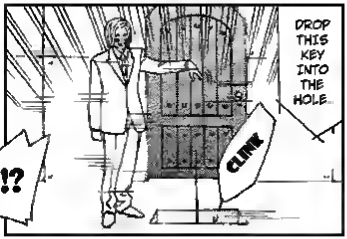
SIKA RU!?
HM-HM ...
TIME TO COM-MENCE STAGE 2, MANJOU.
RIDDLES ALSO RE-QUIRE ATTEN-TION... I COULD BE GIVING YOU A VERY IMPOR-TANT HINT, SO PLEASE LISTEN CLOSELY.

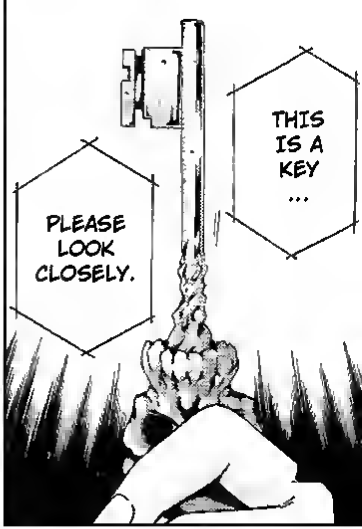

PLEASE LOOK CAREFUL-LY AT THIS ROOM.
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROOM IS A HOLE ROUGHLY 50 CM DEEP. ON THE OTHER SIDE IS A DOOR.

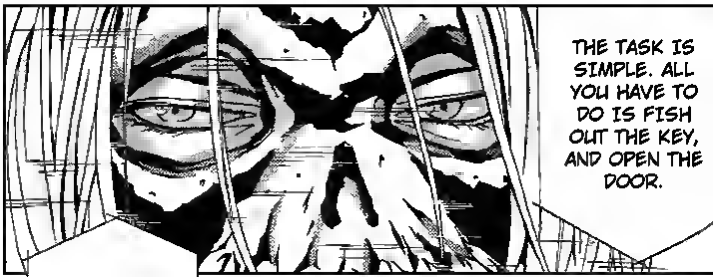

NOW ...

... OK.


I WILL NOW.


DROP THIS KEY INTO THE HOLE.
CLINK
!?


THIS IS A KEY ...
PLEASE LOOK CLOSELY.


THE TASK IS SIMPLE. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS FISH OUT THE KEY, AND OPEN THE DOOR.

THE TIME LIMIT IS 50 MINUTES.

BZZT
DON'T FORGET IT
HEHEHE
HEHE LISTEN .. WHEN THE SOLUTION IS SEEN, IT IS NOT SEEN; ONLY WHEN IT IS NOT SEEN, CAN IT BE SEEN
...EH? ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS RETRIEVE THE KEY, WHY WOULD IT TAKE SO MINUTES!?
KA-CHACK
.....!!
IT'S THAT HOLE ...

T/N GREAT ANOTHER ONE
WHAT !?
IF IT'S ONLY RE-TRIEV-ING A KEY
AL-THOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S PLAN-NING
BEEP
49:59

THAT'S JUST PLAIN IMPOSSIBLE! IT CAN'T BE DONE IN SUCH A SHORT TIME, AND ALL THE KEYS LOOK SIMILAR TO ONE ANOTHER!!
...
SO WHEN HE WAS TELLING US TO "LOOK CLOSELY", HE WAS ASKING US TO REMEMBER THE SHAPE OF THE KEY!?
!!
HEY, WHAT'RE YOU DOING? HELP ME ALREADY.
UGH.. IF IT'S LIKE THIS, I'LL JUST HAVE TO TRY EVERY ONE
HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME!?
NOT EVEN YOU COULD HAVE REMEMBERED THE SHAPE OF THE KEY, RIGHT!?

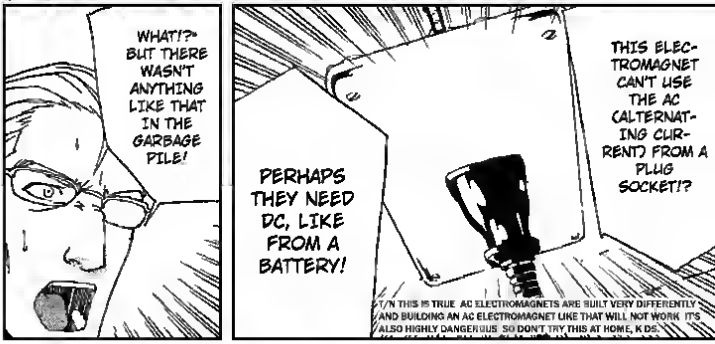
IT'S NO USE HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE TO TRY ALL OF THE KEYS?
NOT ENOUGH TIME.
ALSO, SIKORA ...
... IS NOT THE TYPE OF PERSON TO SET SUCH A MENIAL TASK TO FIND THE SOLUTION.
THEN HOW'RE WE MEANT TO DO THIS...!? THERE'S NO OTHER WAY
!!
HEY! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING!?
THE SOLUTION IS DEFINITELY NOT IN THIS ROOM.
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP

JRT
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU RUMMAGING AROUND IN THE TRASH FOR?
IS THIS YOUR SO-CALLED "SOLUTION"!?
THAT'S ALL WE NEED!
GOT IT!

ARE YOU STUPID!? IF YOU USE THIS, WON'T ALL OF THE KEYS BE ATTRACTED TO IT!?
ELECTROMAGNET!?
IT'S AN ELECTROMAGNET
WRAPPING COPPER WIRE AROUND PVC TUBING!? WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU MAKING!?
WOULDN'T YOU NORMALLY SAY "REMOVE" INSTEAD?
"FISH OUT" THE KEY ...
AT THAT TIME, SIKARU TOLD US TO...
... REALLY?

IF YOU DON'T TRY, YOU'LL NEVER KNOW.
12:31
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT ONLY THE REAL KEY WILL BE ATTRACTED!?
BE PATIENT. I'M TESTING IT WITH A NAIL.
WELL ?
NOW, LET'S PLUG THIS IN ...
IT'S NOT ATTRACTED!? WHY!?
SCRAPE
!?

T/N YES, THAT'S NOW THIS CHARACTER'S CATCHPHRASE.


WHAT!?* BUT THERE WASN'T ANYTHING LIKE THAT IN THE GARBAGE PILE!
PERHAPS THEY NEED DC, LIKE FROM A BATTERY!
THIS ELECTROMAGNET CAN'T USE THE AC (ALTERNATING CURRENT) FROM A PLUG SOCKET!?
T/N THIS IS TRUE. AC ELECTROMAGNETS ARE BUILT VERY DIFFERENTLY AND BUILDING AN AC ELECTROMAGNET LIKE THAT WILL NOT WORK. IT'S ALSO HIGHLY DANGEROUS. SO DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME, K DS.

UGH! WASN'T "FISH OUT THE KEY" MEANT TO TELL US TO USE A MAGNET? UNLESS IT WAS A RED HERRING, AND I MISSED SOMETHING?
IF I MISSED SOME-THING, WHAT WAS IT?
HEY, SAY SOME-THING!
WHEN IT IS NOT SEEN...!?
...IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT THAT WE'RE IN THIS SIT-UATION...
WHAT ON EARTH DID HE MEAN BY THAT!?
ALSO, THAT PHRASE "WHEN THE SOLUTION IS SEEN, IT IS NOT SEEN; ONLY WHEN IT IS NOT SEEN, CAN IT BE SEEN"...
WHAT!? H-HEY!
NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, WHEN SIKARU PICKED UP THE KEY, HE TOOK OFF HIS GLOVE...
...!! AH!

WHERE' RE YOU GOING !?
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS!
WHAT SIKARU SAID AND DID...
... AND THIS GAR- BAGE-FILLED CORRIDOR ...
IT'S ALL BEEN ON PUR- POSE!

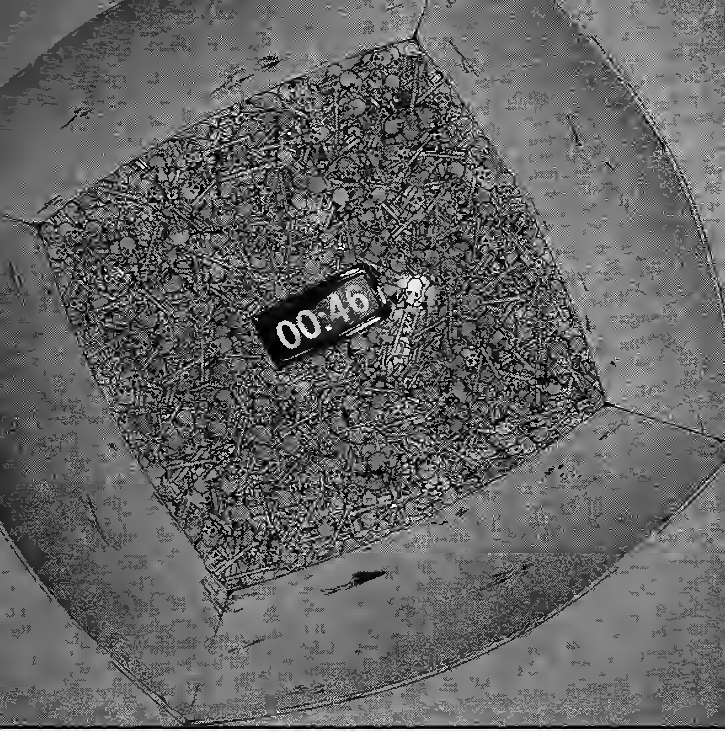
THE GORD-IAN KNOT
1
...HAS BEEN UNRAVE-LED!

T/N HONESTLY, WHY IS IT THAT IN ALL GAMBLING MANGA, EVERYONE SAVE THE MAIN CHARACTER IS USUALLY JUST A BURDEN?

WHAT !?
A DESK LAMP! ?
THE WIRES HAVE ALREADY BEEN CUT; ISN'T THAT JUST USELESS GARBAGE!?
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS CONNECT THE WIRES, AND IT'LL BECOME USEFUL
USEFUL!? FOR WHAT!? THIS CAN BE USED TO FIND THE KEY!?
I'VE BEEN WONDERING ...
T/N INNUENDO!
THAT IS, HE MUST HAVE WANTED TO TOUCH THE KEY DIRECTLY...
WHY SIKARU HAD TO TAKE OFF HIS GLOVES BEFORE HE PICKED UP THE KEY ...

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS!?
WATCH.
PA...
STRICTLY SPEAKING, THOUGH, WHAT DID HE WANT US TO SEE?
YOU'LL SOON SEE ...
... BECAUSE... ONLY WHEN THE SOLUTION IS NOT SEEN ...
CAN IT BE SEEN!!

ARE YOU AN IDIOT !?
IF YOU DO THIS, WE CAN'T SEE A THING, LET ALONE THE KEY!
SPK CLICK
OH, YOU MEAN ...
LIKE THIS!?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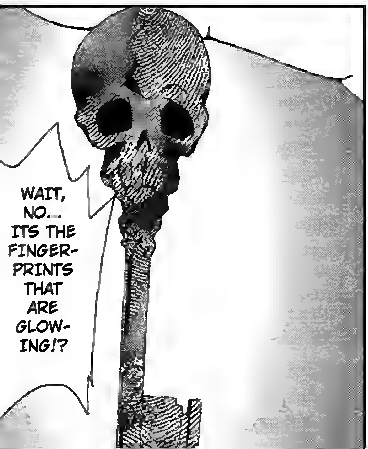
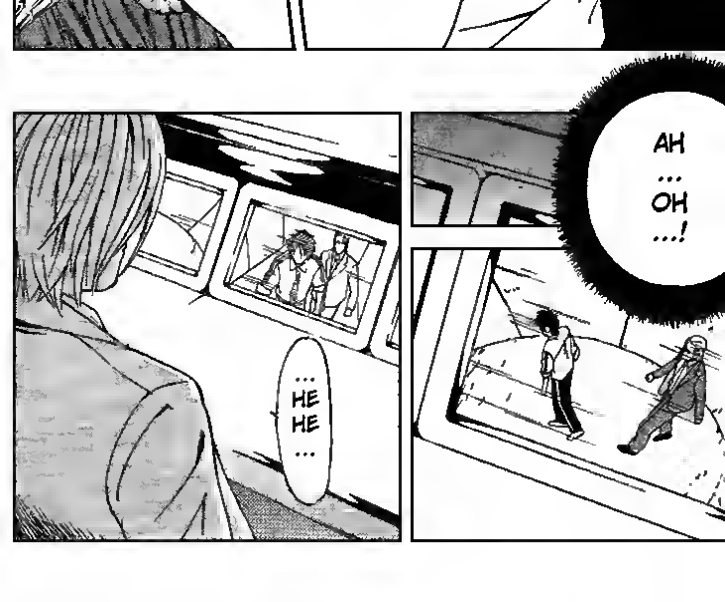

WAIT, NO... ITS THE FINGER-PRINTS THAT ARE GLOW-ING!?

... WHAT!? ONLY ONE KEY IS GLOWING ...

YES... THIS IS A "FLUORESCENT LAMP(-BLACK LIGHT)".
IT CAN CAUSE OTHER FLUORESCENT CHEMICALS TO GLOW.
T/N TRUE.
WHAT!?
IS THIS BECAUSE OF THE LAMP?
I THINK SIKARU PUT SUCH CHEMICALS ON HIS HANDS BEFOREHAND.
THEN, WHEN HE TOUCHED THE KEY, THE CHEMICALS RUBBED ONTO THE KEY, CAUSING IT TO GLOW.
OH...
POLICEMEN USE SOMETHING SIMILAR WHEN THEY INVESTIGATE A CRIME SCENE. AFTER SPRAYING THE CHEMICALS EVERYWHERE, THEY JUST USE A FLUORESCENCE LAMP.
...THIS KID... STILL MANAGED TO ELEGANTLY GET THE SOLUTION UNDER SUCH CONDITIONS...
NO WONDER STANLEY CORP. CONTACTED HIM!
TING!
EH!?

AT THIS RATE, WE'LL DEFINITELY RESCUE NAT-SUKI AND THE PEKING MAN!
KA-CHACK!
WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR?
WE STILL HAVEN'T FINISHED, YOU KNOW.


... HE HE ...
AH ... OH ...!

WELL DONE, BANJO ...
YOU WERE COR-RECT ...
... BUT ...
... CAN YOU GET TO ...
... THE END OF THIS BATTLE?

GORIDIOSU NO MUSUBIME

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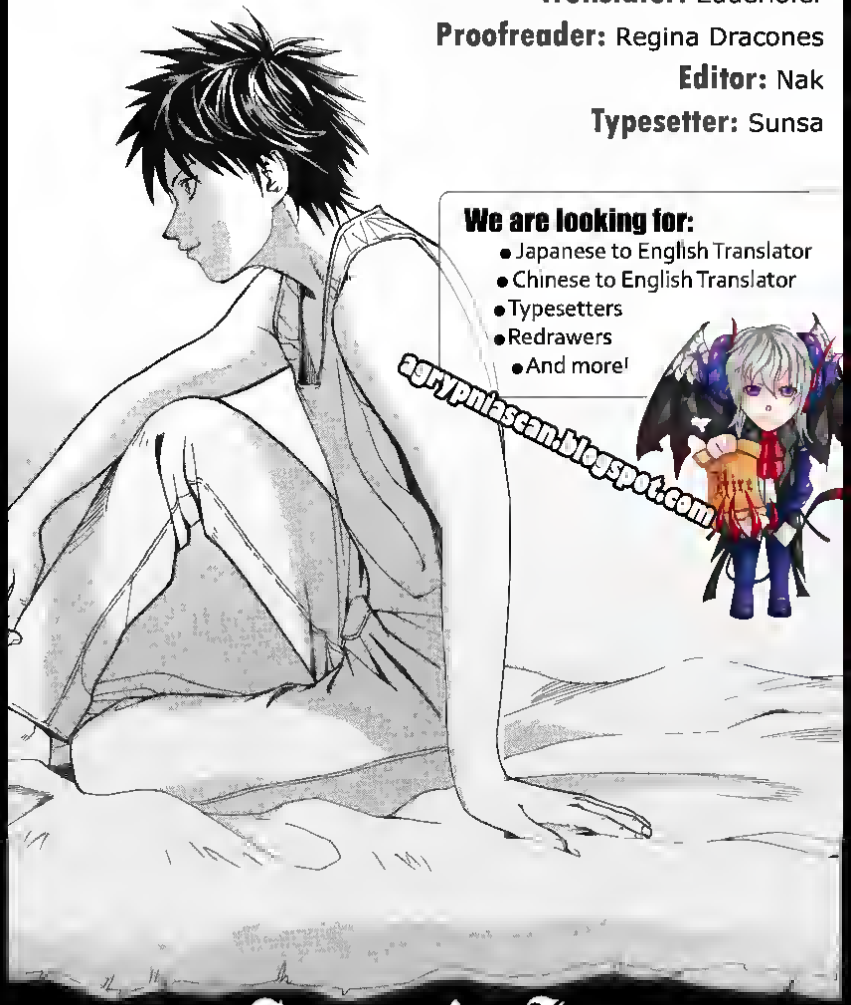


Agrypnia Scans

GORIDIOSU NO MUSUBIME
Chapter 7
We need more Japanese translators
Cleaner: Noitrus
Proofreader: Regina
Typesetter: greening
Redrawer: Dark Angel
Translator: Edderiofer
Agrypnia Scans

WHILE RESCUING THE PEKING MAN AND NATSUKI, BANJO AND AMERICAN SECRET SERVICE AMBASSADOR, MR. MAYA ENTERED SIKARU'S HOUSE.
!?
HOWEVER, TO DELAY THEIR EFFORTS, SIKARU SET A NUMBER OF RIDDLES FOR THEM

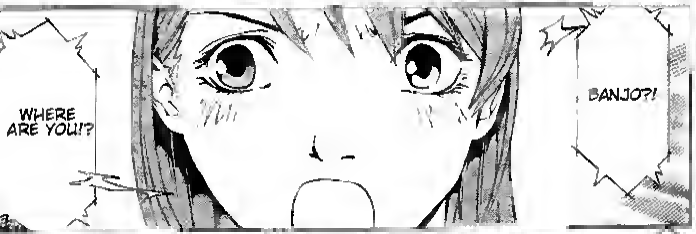
MISSION 7 : BATTLE AGAINST SIKARU (PART TWO)

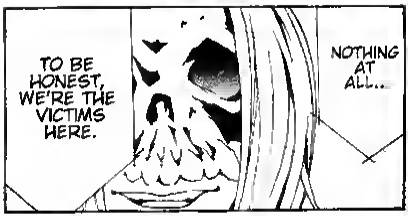
49:59
BANJO THOUGH HAS ELEGANTLY SOLVED THEM, AND IS NOW RUSHING TOWARDS NATSUKI'S LOCATION
THERE ARE EVEN MORE CHALLENGES AWAITING ...
WHAT'S THIS?!

WHAT!? WHAT'S WITH THIS LARGE ROOM...?

IT'S SO STRANGE
BESIDES THE ENTRANCE, I CAN'T SEE ANY OTHER EXIT ...
*T/N: THERE'S A SUPPOSE THIS TIME IT'S NOT MR. MAYA YELLING THAT
...I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...
W-WHAT?!
!?

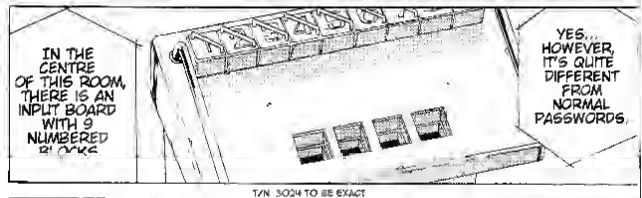
SIKARU!!
STOP...
THIS IS THE LAST LEVEL!
HEHE. FIRST, I'D LIKE TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON GETTING HERE, BANJO
WAIT...
HEHE...
NATSUKI...
NATSKI-SAN'S HERE?





TAN LOL AT MR. MAYA'S FACE

IN ANY CASE, IF YOU WANT TO SAVE THE PRINCESS AND THE TREASURE, YOU MUST FIRST GUESS THE PASSWORD TO OPEN THE SECRET DOOR.
PASS-WORD?


IN THE CENTRE OF THIS ROOM, THERE IS AN INPUT BOARD WITH 9 NUMBERED BLOCKS
YES... HOWEVER, IT'S QUITE DIFFERENT FROM NORMAL PASSWORDS.

T/N: 3024 TO BE EXACT

WAIT! THERE ARE OVER 3000 COMBINATIONS WE CAN MAKE WITH THESE BLOCKS, THAT'S TOO UNFAIR!!
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS MAKE A 4-DIGIT NUMBER WITH THE BLOCKS AND INSERT THEM INTO THE HOLES

GIVEN THAT YOU'VE SOLVED ALL THE RIDDLES UP TO NOW, I'M SURE YOU CAN DO IT.
YOUR MISSION IS, REMEMBER, TO GET THE PASSWORD.
BESIDES, IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO GET THE ANSWER ON YOUR FIRST TRY.
HEHE... THAT'S WHY THERE'S NO TIME LIMIT. YOU CAN ALSO HAVE AS MANY TRIES AS YOU LIKE.

T/N: OR, IF YOU PREFER "NO PAIN, NO GAIN."

HEHE... I KNEW YOU MIGHT SAY THAT. HOWEVER, DO REMEMBER...
YOU CAN'T CATCH TIGER CUBS WITHOUT ENTERING THE TIGER'S LAIR!*
O-OF COURSE!
I JUST FEEL THAT THIS IS SIMPLY A TIME-WASTER.
IN FACT, IT'S JUST A FINGER-BREAKER!

SO, ANY IDEAS?
NOW, LET'S BEGIN.
HNG!
...SO YOU WERE JUST BLUFFING THEN!?
SFX NODS
WAIT!
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS. WE SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL...
WELL...
SINCE THERE'S NO TIME LIMIT, I GUESS WE CAN JUST TRY EVERY COMBINATION.

WHAT FEELING?
THE END IS IN SIGHT! WE CAN'T DILLY-DALLY!
SFX: S...NG
MR. MAYA, CAN YOU HEAR SOMETHING?
WHERE'S THE SECRET DOOR...
WELL...
!?
SFX: SPLOSH

ドドド

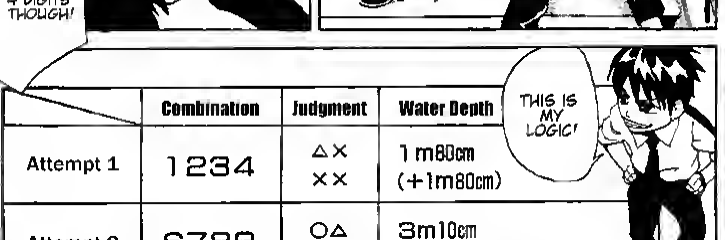
IT STOPPED ...
BI—
OOPS BANJO-SAN, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
SI-KA-RU!
BANJO, WHY DID THIS-
HOW SHOULD I KNOW!?
TAN SO IT'S LIKE A GAME OF MASTERMIND?
SORRY, I FORGOT TO MENTION A VERY IMPORTANT DETAIL.
THIS ROOM HAS A CATCH, IF YOU INPUT THE WRONG PASSWORD, LIKE JUST NOW ..
THEN 50CM OF WATER WILL FLOW IN FOR EVERY DIGIT NOT IN THE PASSWORD, AND 30CM FOR EVERY DIGIT IN THE WRONG PLACE.
YOU...
WH-T ARE YOU S-Y-ING?!

HEHE... GOOD LUCK.
...N-
THEN WE'RE SCREWED!?
WAIT... SO EVEN IF WE HAVE UNLIMITED TIME AND ATTEMPTS, IF THE WATER FILLS THE ROOM..
NO...
WHAT DO WE DO NOW, BANJO!? WE'D DROWN LONG BEFORE WE GET THE CORRECT ANSWER!
RATHER, TO SOLVE THIS IS REALLY EASY!!

A WATER DEPTH GAUGE!?
LOOK OVER THERE.
THERE ARE 3 DIGITS THAT ARE NOT IN THE PASSWORD, AND ONE THAT IS SIMPLY IN THE WRONG PLACE.
THAT IS TO SAY, MR. MAYA, THAT FROM THE NUMBERS -:1234:-
THE WATER DEPTH IN THIS ROOM IS EXACTLY 1.8M.
THE HEIGHT OF THIS ROOM IS 8.7M, SO WE STILL HAVE 6.9M LEFT
FROM THIS, WE CAN DEDUCE THE NUMBERS!
EXACTLY.
OF COURSE! IF AN UNUSED DIGIT IS 50CM, AND A MISPLACED DIGIT 30CM, THEN THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE 1.8M IS -:150CM X 3 + 30CM:-!

IF IT'S JUST 9 DIGITS, THIS IS ENOUGH TO FIGURE IT OUT!
ドドド

HEY, THE WATER DEPTH IS ALREADY MORE THAN 4M. WHY WOULDN'T I BE FEELING UNCOMFORTABLE! BESIDES, I'M STILL WEARING CLOTHES!
I'VE ALREADY FOUND THE 4 DIGITS THOUGH!



	Combination	Judgment	Water Depth
Attempt 1	1234	△× ××	1m80cm (+1m80cm)
Attempt 2	6789	○△ ××	3m10cm (+1m30cm)

At this point, because only 3 of [12346789] are used, the remaining [5] has to be used as well.

Attempt 3	123⑤	△× ××	4m90cm (+1m80cm)

[5] is known to be used, so all other digits must be unused. Therefore, [4] is known to be used as well, as [123] aren't used, but [1234] contains one used digit, from Attempt 1.

Attempt 4	67④⑤	○△ ××	6m20cm (+1m30cm)

Therefore, [67] can't be used either. We also know that [5] is not in the right place, but [4] is the third digit. Also, from Attempt 2, we can deduce that [89] must be used. Because there was one correct digit in Attempt 2, and [8] can't be the third digit (because that's filled by [4]), the other correct digit must be [9]. Therefore, the answer must be XX49, with the two Xs being [58] in some order.

IF ALL THAT'S LEFT IS WHERE 5 AND 8 GO, THEN IT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM.
6.50
THE ONLY TWO POSSIBILITIES ARE 5849 AND 8549!
EVEN IN THE WORST CASE SCENARIO, ONLY 60CM OF WATER WILL POUR IN, AND IT'LL STOP AT 6.8M!
HEHE... DIDN'T I SAY SO?
"IT'S JUST A FINGER-BREAKER!"
...EVEN THOUGH I SAID THAT, IT'S STILL PRETTY HARD TO GET TO THE INPUT BOARD...
HOWEVER..

I HOPE THIS IS THE RIGHT ANSWER!
WELL...?
THE WATER'S FLOWING IN...
THAT MEANS THE ANSWER MUST BE 8549!
OK!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, JUST DO IT ONCE MORE.
!?

HA... HA...
DAMMIT, IT WAS WRONG?
B-BANJO-SAN!
PWAH!
W-WHAT'S GOING ON!?
THE WATER STILL HASN'T STOPPED!!
YOU SAID "60CM", BUT THE STAIRS ARE COMPLETELY FLOODED!
MY FEET AREN'T TOUCHING THE GROUND ANYMORE!
WHAT!?

WAGH! MY FEET...
IS SIKARU PLANNING TO BREAK THE RULES AND KILL US HERE!?
I DON'T THINK WE'LL MAKE IT!!
UGH... OH NO...
H-HOW...
THE WATER'S ALREADY OVER 8M DEEP!
JUST LIKE MR MAYA SAID, WE WON'T MAKE IT...
DAMNIT... THERE'S ONLY 50CM TO THE CEILING...
!?

I DON'T KNOW...
H-HOW!? IT'S DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU SAID!!
IT STOPPED?
JUST SHUT UP, OK? I'M TRYING TO THINK...
...UNLESS
I DIDN'T COMMISSION STANLEY CORP. JUST TO RECEIVE AN IDIOT!
WHAT!?
HEY, WHERE'RE YOU GOING
...!?

UNLESS THAT PASSWORD...
...NO WONDER!
WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY- UNLESS YOU'VE GOT IT!?
NO... I JUST CHECKED THE BOTTOM OF THE BLOCKS... AND...
HA... HA...
HA...
PWAH!

WHAT!?
BUT THAT MEANS ...
THAT BASTARD SIKARU PUT NUMBERS ON THE BACK OF THE BLOCKS AS WELL! AND THEY'RE DIFFERENT FROM THE FRONT, TOO!
COULD HAVE DUPLICATE DIGITS!
YES, THAT PASSWORD ...
IF THERE ARE DUPLICATES, THOUGH, THEN WE'LL HAVE TO RETHINK THINGS.
MY PREVIOUS LOGIC RELIED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THERE WEREN'T ANY SUCH BLOCKS...
WE'RE SCREWED.
NOT JUST THAT
WE ONLY HAVE 50CM LEFT
IF WE GET EVEN ONE DIGIT WRONG, WE'RE DEAD
WE CAN'T EVEN RE-DEDUCE THE NUMBERS...
BUT THEN, ALL OF OUR WORK UP UNTIL NOW...
HAS JUST BEEN RENDERED USELESS!?

HNGH!
BASTARD...
OI, GIRL, CAN'T YOU SHUT UP?
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU TRY, YOU WON'T BREAK THOSE LEATHER STRAPS.
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING!?
NON...
...SENSE?
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS!? ITS NONSENSE!

YES... A MAN DIED THERE.
DO YOU REMEMBER THAT 3 MONTHS AGO, A MURDER OCCURRED AT YOKOHAMA'S WAREHOUSE CENTRE?
MOST PEOPLE HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT, EVEN THOUGH THE MURDERER HASN'T BEEN CAUGHT.
SUECHI SHO... WAS A FAMOUS CHESSPLAYER.
EH!?
IN FACT, I PLAYED AGAINST HIM THAT DAY.
AH... IT WAS A GOOD MATCH. WE WERE BOTH GOING ALL OUT.
BUT HE DISAPPOINTED ME IN THE END.

HE MADE BLUNDER AT THE LAST MINUTE!
T/N: BY THE WAY, ANY CHALLENGERS CAN FEEL FREE TO CHALLENGE ME ON CHESS.COM. MY USERNAME IS GODSKIPPER
HAHAHA, UNFORTUNATELY NOT...
Y-YOU KILLED HIM!?
FIRSTLY, THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY BORING.

B-BORING!?
INDEED...
FOR EXAMPLE, IF I WERE TO POINT A GUN AT YOUR HEAD AND PULL THE TRIGGER...
WHAT WOULD THAT LEAVE?
I'M CLEARLY NOT SOMEONE WHO FEELS SADNESS OR GUILT...
ALL THAT WOULD REMAIN WOULD BE A CLOUD OF GUN-POWDER AND YOUR LIFELESS CORPSE.
TO SOMEONE WHO DWELLS IN THE DARK WORLD, LIKE ME, KILLING IS JUST A PART OF EVERYDAY LIFE...

I WANT TO TALK WITH THEM THROUGH A GAME ...
IF THEY CAN RECEIVE MY RIDDLES, FORESEE MY STRATEGIES, ACKNOWLEDGE MY EXISTENCE, AND TALK TO ME...
WITH NO SUCH THING AS PRETENSE OR BETRAYAL...
THIS IS WHAT TRUE COMMUNICATION IS!!
MADMAN!
HOWEVER, EVEN IF SOMEONE DIES,
THIS IS STILL UNAVOIDABLE!
HA
HA
HA

THERE'S NOTHING LEFT...
...BESIDES THE TIME WITHERING AWAY...
!?
UGH...
DAMN..
PWAH!
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
NO... THIS IS JUST GOING TO WASTE MY STAMINA...
WE'RE REALLY SCREWED!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
GE HE HE HE ...
GE HE HE HE ...
YEP, WE'RE SCRE-WED.
...!? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
THERE'S STILL A WAY...
WHAT!? IN THIS SITUATION...
HOW CAN THERE BE A WAY!?
GLUB

PWAH
WE'RE GOING TO DIE ...
WHO'S GOING TO SAVE ME
DON'T JUST SINK DOWN LIKE THAT!
I-IDIOT!
HA...
HA...
WHO'S GOING TO SAVE ME
MR. MAYA, CALM DOWN...
TN: LOL AT MR. MAYA'S FACE
H-HELP
DON'T JOKE AROUND!!!
IF THIS KEEPS GOING ON, AREN'T WE BOTH GONNA DIE?

ピーン
ヤ
!?
THE CEILING CHANGED COLOUR ...
...BECAUSE OF THE WATER!?
IT DID!
...THIS ROOM MUST HAVE ANOTHER RIDDLE!

UP TO A CERTAIN DEGREE, SIKARU'S STILL A PRETTY FAIR ARBITRATOR...
COME TO THINK OF IT, SIKARU'S RIDDLES HAVE ALWAYS SEEMED IMPENETRABLE, BUT HE'S ALWAYS GIVEN HINTS SOMEWHERE
HEE HEE HEE!
WHY...
BUT THIS LAST PASS-WORD WHETHER IT'S DIGIT REPE-TITION OR WATER
IS TOO UNFAIR!
...!!
TIGER'S LAIR...!?
HOWEVER, PLEASE DO REMEMBER...
YOU CAN'T CATCH TIGER CUBS WITHOUT ENTERING THE TIGER'S LAIR!

TIGER'S LAIR
THAT IS TO SAY ONE'S OWN PREDICAMENT?
THERE-FORE...
MR. MAYA, LISTEN CAREFULLY!
HA!
HONESTLY YOU'RE GOING TO BE HYSTERI-CAL
UNTIL YOU DIE !!!
HUHU AYAYA YA!

!?
MR. MAYA, IF YOU'RE CONSCIOUS, THEN LISTEN TO ME!
I'LL BE GOING DOWN AGAIN!
COUGH COUGH
WHAT!?
THEN, WAIT FOR THE WATER TO FLOW IN, TAKE A DEEP BREATH, AND LOOK AT THE CEILING!
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE, THAT IS!
WAIT, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO-
NO TIME TO TALK, JUST FOLLOW MY INSTRUC-TIONS!

IF MY ASSUMPTION IS CORRECT...

UGH...
INHALE
THE WATER'S FLOWING IN!
WHAT IS THAT BRAT THINKING...!?
BLOOP
...! THIS IS ...

NO WONDER!!
THEN...
THE GORDIAN KNOT HAS BEEN UNRAVELED!
WHAT HAS BEEN HIDDEN IS-

MOUNT FUJI!
THIS USES CHEMICALS THAT CHANGE COLOUR WITH TEMPERATURE. THEY'RE OFTEN USED IN TOYS.
SIKARU DREW MT. FUJI TO REACT TO THE WATER TEMPERATURE!
A 4-DIGIT NUMBER TO DO WITH MT. FUJI
WOULD BE ITS PEAK ALTITUDE. 3776M!

NO WONDER...
...MT. FUJI IS THE FINAL DOOR!

HA... HA... I'M SAVED...
HWAH!
HA... HA... WAIT. WHERE'S THAT KID?
UGH... JUST A BIT MORE ...
BUT I'M AT MY LIMIT ALREADY ...
!?

HWAH!
HANG ON!
HA... HA... MR. MANJOU ...
IDIOT! YOU'RE ALWAYS GIVING ME TROUBLE!
IF YOU DIE HERE, I WON'T BE ABLE TO LAUGH IT OFF!
HEEHEE OF COURSE ...
HUH, HOW DISAP-POINTING
SEEMS LIKE HE'S NOT THE TYPE OF PERSON I WAS EXPECTING

THAT CHILD... HE WOULDN'T DIE EVEN IF HE WANTED TO! BECAUSE I'VE BEEN TRAINING HIM!
OF COURSE NOT.
BANJO WON'T BE DEFEATED THIS EASILY.
!!
CORRECT!
I CAN'T BE DEFEATED THIS EASILY...
BANJO!
BECAUSE I HAVE TOO MANY THINGS I HAVEN'T ONE YET!
HEEHEE, LIKE THOSE THINGS!

AH, WELL DONE.
SEEING AS YOU ESCAPED HAT ROOM ...
!?
YOU HAVE GUTS AS WELL AS BRAINS.
I UNDER-STAND NOW.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SAYING? ARE YOU NOT SATISFIED?
SHUT UP AND RELEASE NATSUKI-SAN!
OF COURSE.
KA-CHAK

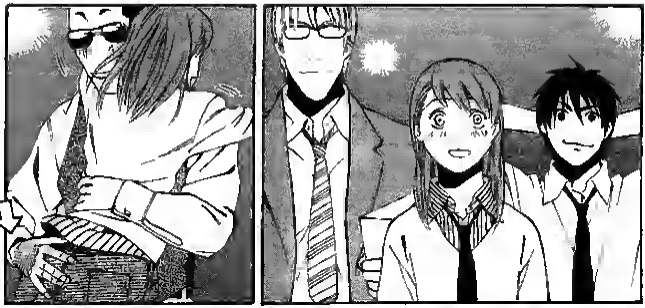
NATSUKI-SAN, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
OF COURSE
IT SEEMS MR. WEN CALLED THE POLICE. JUST IN TIME.
I GUESS IT'S GAME OVER FOR YOU ...
SIKARU!
NOT YET...
THIS GAME HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN.
WHAT?!
DISCUSSING THINGS SO EQUALLY ...
TO PART WAYS, IS TOO ...
WE, AS SUCH OPPONENTS ...

...FAR TOO DISAPPOINTING.
HE-
HE FLEW!?

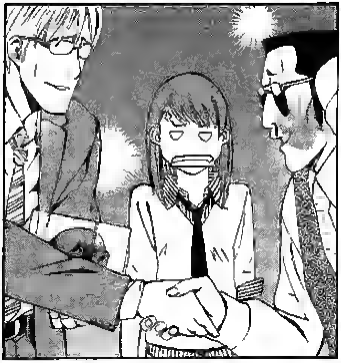
N-NO WAY!?
HOW!? IS HE GHOST!?
SHOOK
HE HIMSELF FLED THROUGH THIS TRAPDOOR
OF COURSE NOT. HE SIMPLY USED STRINGS TO PULL UP THE CAPE AND MASK.
W-WHAT ...
IN ANY CASE, HE'S AN ABNORMAL PRICK.

SIKÄRU!!
!?
I'VE FINALLY FOUND SOMEONE WHO CAN UNDERSTAND ME ...
I'LL COMMUNICATE TO YOU THROUGH MY GAMES ...
HEHE BANJÖ YUKI ...
UNTIL YOU DIE!

I'LL GET YOU NEXT TIME, YOU BASTARD!
HEY, HEY! DON'T USE THAT TONE OF VOICE!
THOUGH, SIKARU ...
I'VE BEEN TARGETED BY A VERY ANNOYING PERSON...

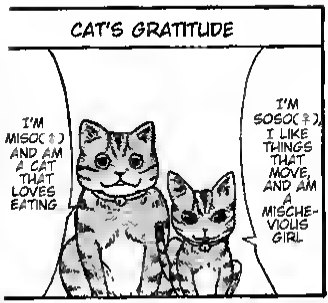


EH, WHERE'S BANJO?

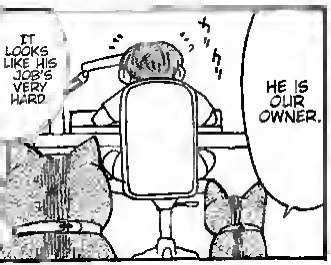


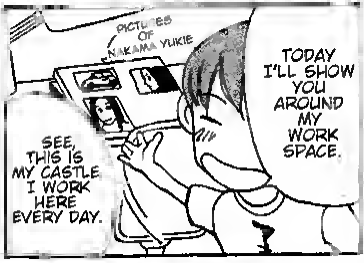
HE'S PROBABLY WORN OUT; JUST LET HIM REST. ALSO,

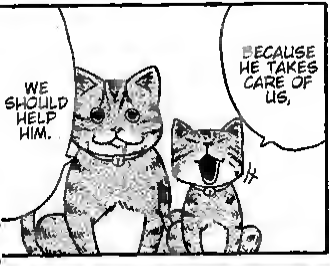
TELL HIM "I'M SORRY FOR CALLING YOU A CHILD. YOU'RE ACTUALLY A BRILLIANT KNIGHT."
WHEN HE WAKES UP, COULD YOU LEAVE HIM A MESSAGE FOR ME?
GORDIAN KNOT VOLUME 2 END


CAT'S GRATITUDE
I'M MISO(♀) AND AM A CAT THAT LOVES EATING
I'M SOSO(♂). I LIKE THINGS THAT MOVE, AND AM A MISCHEVIOUS GIRL

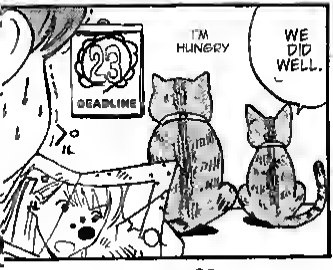
FRESH...
THANKS FOR READING UP TO HERE
HELLO, I'M NOSE NAOKI.


IT LOOKS LIKE HIS JOB'S VERY HARD
HE IS OUR OWNER.


PICTURES OF NAKAMA YUKIE
TODAY I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND MY WORK SPACE.
SEE, THIS IS MY CASTLE. I WORK HERE EVERY DAY.


WE SHOULD HELP HIM.
BECAUSE HE TAKES CARE OF US,

THEY RELIEVE MY STRESS.
THESE ARE MY SWEET ANGELS, SOSO AND MISO.
MISO: 3.5KG
SOSO: 1 YEAR OLD


DEADLINE
I'M HUNGRY
WE DID WELL.
POOR SERVICE

IT'S COVERED IN CAT POOP.
HERE'S THE ORIGINAL SKETCH
BUT I FORGIVE THEM BECAUSE THEY'RE SO CUTE
BITE MARKS
PAW PRINTS

工作人員

佐紀千鈴 Saki Chisuzu
島井政子 Shimai Masako
北浦幸治 Kitaura Koji

信件大募集!!

請把對作品的感想和給作者的說話寄來吧!!

信件請寄到

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